

JULY 1956

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 7

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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Featured in this issue . . .

CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY PRICES

REVISED OUTLOOK FOR 1956 CONSTRUCTION

- *Expenditures*
- *Starts*
- *Materials*
- *Awards*
- *Permits*
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* In this issue--Revised nonfarm housing starts estimates for 1910-19 (Part II); and
Revisions in national estimates of contract construction employment and hours and
earnings from 1954; revisions in seasonally adjusted indexes of employment from 1953; and a
new table giving estimates from 1948 of the number of employees, seasonally adjusted, in
contract construction (Part VII).

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At a Glance

CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK FOR 1956--Expenditures for new construction in 1956 are now expected to total \$44-1/2 billion, or 4 percent above the record \$43 billion spent last year. Revised outlook estimates (see p. 7) indicate that new private housing will decline more from 1955 than was expected earlier--but that greater gains are in view for utilities, private industrial plants, and highways, each of which will probably set new annual records in 1956. New peaks are anticipated also for commercial building, public schools, and sewer and water facilities, and a substantial advance is scheduled for public-service enterprises (largely gains in work on the St. Lawrence Seaway). Prospects are that total private outlays in 1956 will be about the same as in 1955, at \$31 billion, whereas public spending is expected to advance 9 percent to \$13-1/2 billion.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN JUNE--Outlays for new construction rose seasonally in June to \$4 billion, slightly above the \$3.9-billion June record of 1955. Almost all types of construction shared in the 8-percent rise this June, when spending was at an alltime monthly high for private industrial plants, public utilities, and sewer and water facilities--and at a new June record for highways, commercial building, and public schools. The \$2.7-billion private total was slightly under June 1955, mostly because residential building (though up from May) was off 12 percent from the extraordinarily high June 1955 figure. Public construction outlays, however, reached a new June high this year of \$1.3 billion. For the first 6 months of 1956, private spending for new construction (\$14.2 billion) edged above the same 1955 period, and the public total (\$5.7 billion) was 4 percent more.

HOUSING STARTS IN MAY--Nonfarm housing starts totaled 108,000 in May, a seasonal gain of 2,000 over April, and about 30,000 less than in May 1955. Privately owned units this May (107,000) were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.1 million--the same as in April. Although the private total for the first 5 months of 1956 (457,100 units) compared favorably with totals for the same period in the 4 years 1951-54, it was 17 percent less than the 5-month figure for 1950 and 1955.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN MAY--After March and April increases, the volume of nonfarm housing begun under FHA-VA programs showed little change in May, and for the first 5 months of 1956 was 27 percent below the like 1955 period. The FHA-VA share of total private starts thus far in 1956 was 43 percent, compared with 49 percent during the first 5 months of 1955 and the 50-percent-or-more ratio prevailing during the rest of 1955. FHA applications for new home loans edged up 2 percent from April to May, but VA appraisal requests declined 3 percent--the first decline in 1956.

NONFARM MORTGAGE RECORDINGS IN APRIL--Nonfarm mortgage recordings totaled the same in April as in March--\$2.3 billion--and though at a relatively high level, the figure for each month was below a year ago. As a result, the \$8.6-billion total for the first 4 months of 1956 was slightly less (2 percent) than in the same 1955 period--a decrease influenced by over-the-year declines in lending by insurance companies, savings and loan associations, and the miscellaneous group (chiefly real estate and mortgage companies).

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IN MAY--Building permit valuations rose 2 percent in May to nearly \$1.9 billion, bringing volume for the first 5 months of 1956 to \$7.9 billion. Both these figures were about the same as a year ago. Industrial building expanded sharply in May 1956 to a valuation total well above previous monthly peaks (more than double a year earlier), and other major types of nonresidential building were at significantly high levels though stores and community buildings declined moderately from April. The dwelling-unit valuation total this May held at the April level--slightly above \$1 billion--but continued, for the seventh successive month, to trail year-ago activity. Comparing the first 5 months of 1955 and 1956, permit valuation totals were considerably higher this year for all nonresidential building types, but were down 10 percent for housing, reflecting the 17-percent drop in the number of dwelling units for which permits were issued.

PUBLIC CONTRACT AWARDS IN APRIL--Public contract awards rose 5 percent in April to almost \$910 million, bringing the total for the first 4 months of 1956 to \$3.2 billion--25 percent above the comparable figure for last year. The April expansion

At a Glance

was due mainly to gains in awards for Federal warehouses, and State and locally owned hospitals and utilities. Over the year, comparing data for the first 4 months, expansion in public awards took place for almost all major types of work, with the most important gains reported for highway construction, conservation and development, schools, and sewerage systems.

CONTRACT AWARDS IN 37 EASTERN STATES IN MAY--The value of construction contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains increased 2 percent to almost \$2.5 billion in May, when all major types of construction with the exception of utilities (which rose 87 percent) declined slightly. The May 1956 total was exceeded only by the May 1951 record monthly total, when \$1.6 billion of nonresidential (largely Korean conflict industrial expansion) contracts pushed the monthly total to \$2.6 billion. Considering the first 5 months of 1955-56, the utilities group was the only one showing a decline from last year. All other groups were at higher levels, with public works showing the outstanding gain (31 percent). The increase over 1955 months for residential awards reflects to some extent improved contract reporting, achieved this year.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN MAY--The upward trend in construction costs continued in May, on the basis of the Department of Commerce Composite Index, which rose by almost 1 percent to 130.2 percent of the 1947-49 average. Compared with a year ago, the index was up by almost 6 percent with more than half of this rise taking place in the 6 months December 1955-May 1956. The major components of costs--labor, materials, and equipment--have shown upward movements that contributed to higher indexes for both building and nonbuilding.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN MAY--The wholesale price index for building materials declined slightly (0.3 percent) from April to 130.9 in May--mainly reflecting reductions of 4.5 percent for Douglas fir plywood and 3.7 percent for metal windows, plus smaller price decreases for Douglas fir and Southern pine lumber, cast-iron soil pipe, and insulation materials. For many important products, there was little or no change from April. The May 1956 index was about 6 percent above the May 1955 level--a rise influenced by over-the-year price advances for virtually all building materials.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN APRIL--Output indexes for the major construction materials were generally lower in April. A notable exception was Portland cement which rose 12 percent from March. The outstanding decline was in asphalt products which dropped 38 percent from the unusually high index for March, when there was considerable inventory accumulation owing to an anticipated general price rise which became effective near the end of the month. The April index for asphalt products, 35 percent lower than last year's level, is the lowest on record for the month. Establishing new highs for April were output indexes for Portland cement, iron and steel, and clay construction products--the only groups which showed increases over the year (5, 14, and 8 percent, respectively). The 1956 first-quarter output index for gypsum exceeded the postwar peak set in the fourth quarter of last year by reaching 187.6 percent of the 1947-49 average.

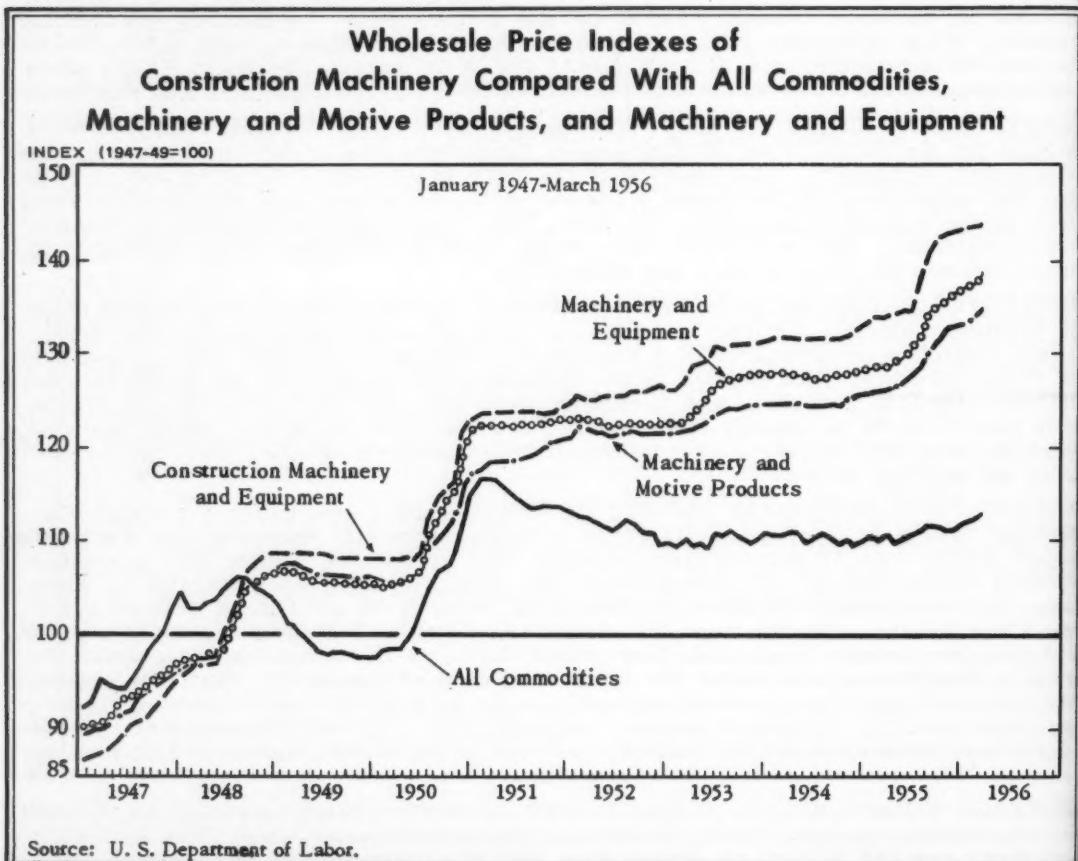
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN MAY--Preliminary reports indicate that the number of workers on contractors' payrolls increased more than seasonally from April (by 183,000) to an alltime May high of 3 million--240,000 above the May 1955 estimate. State data available through April show that the number of workers increased from the previous month in almost all States, and in a majority was higher than in April 1955. Of the 8 States reporting more than 100,000 contract construction workers, only Michigan and Texas failed to show increases from April 1955.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN APRIL--Weekly earnings on contract construction rose by \$3.59 from March to a new April high of \$98.09--largely reflecting a 1-1/2-hour increase in the workweek (to 36.6 hours). Expansion in the workweek and in weekly pay occurred on almost all types of contract construction, both over the month and over the year. Gains from April 1955 in weekly earnings averaged \$5.83 for all contract construction workers, and ranged from \$4.45 for general contractors' employees to \$6.57 for employees of the special-trades contractors.

Prices of Construction Machinery and Equipment, 1947-56

ADAM C. A. EHLHLAGER*

Prices of construction machinery and equipment rose 66 percent from January 1947 through March 1956, as construction activity expanded steadily. This was almost three times as great as the rise in the index of wholesale prices for all commodities published by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and substantially more than the increases of 53 percent in the index for all machinery and equipment and of 50 percent in the machinery and motive products index for the same period.¹



After price controls on machinery were terminated late in 1946, construction machinery and equipment prices rose steadily during 1947 and 1948. (See chart.) Manufacturers adjusted prices, at first to recover higher production costs accumulated during the World War II period, and later to pass on to purchasers the mounting costs of material and labor. After advancing 26 percent in this 2-year period, prices declined fractionally in March 1949 as decreased competition for material and labor reduced manufacturers' costs and construction machinery output began to catch up with demand. Prices soon leveled off, however, and the index remained relatively stable throughout the last half of 1949.

* Of the Division of Prices and Cost of Living, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

¹ In addition to construction machinery and equipment, the BLS wholesale price index for machinery and equipment includes the following: agricultural, metalworking, general purpose, electrical, and miscellaneous machinery and equipment. The machinery and motive products index includes motor vehicles (passenger cars, trucks, coaches), in addition to machinery and equipment. These indexes are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes.

For the entire first half of 1950, the construction machinery index remained unchanged, but with the outbreak of hostilities in Korea it again turned upward and by January 1951 was nearly 15 percent above that of the previous June. The wholesale indexes for all commodities, and for machinery and equipment in general rose at about the same rate during this period.

With the imposition of the General Ceiling Price Regulation late in January 1951, construction machinery prices remained virtually unchanged until November of that year. Thereafter, price adjustments allowed in individual cases for higher material and labor costs were reflected in fractional increases each month in the construction machinery and equipment index. Meanwhile, indexes for all machinery held steady. By the time price controls were terminated in the first quarter of 1953, however, the total effect of these allowances was an increase of less than 3 percent over the February 1951 level in the construction machinery index.

After the removal of controls, prices of construction machinery, along with prices of other types of machinery and equipment, rose rapidly. In the 12 months ending in March 1954, the construction machinery index advanced an additional 3 percent. No important price changes were reported for the next 7 months during the business recession. In November and December 1954, the index resumed its uptrend.

TABLE 1.—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT,
AND POWER-DRIVEN HAND TOOLS, SELECTED MONTHS, 1947-56

Item	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)					Percent increase		
	Jan. 1947	June 1950	Dec. 1954	Dec. 1955	Mar. 1956	Jan. 1947 to Mar. 1956	June 1950 to Mar. 1956	Dec. 1954 to Dec. 1955
Construction machinery and equipment	86.3	108.1	132.6	143.1	143.6	66.4	32.8	7.9
Power cranes, draglines, shovels, and attachments.....	87.7	107.3	133.4	143.6	144.4	64.7	34.6	7.6
Tractor-mounted machinery (dozers, etc.)	83.2	109.7	133.9	141.8	141.8	70.4	29.3	5.9
Specialized machinery (ditchers, rollers, pumps, etc.)	84.2	106.6	122.8	132.3	133.8	58.9	25.5	7.7
Portable air compressors	93.6	105.4	125.6	133.6	133.6	42.7	26.8	6.4
Scrapers and graders.....	85.9	108.4	129.4	138.0	138.0	60.7	27.3	6.6
Contractors' air tools, hand- held	89.6	106.8	125.0	135.7	135.7	51.5	27.1	8.6
Mixers, pavers, spreaders, and related equipment	89.3	105.4	122.0	132.5	133.3	49.3	26.5	8.6
Tractors, for nonfarm use.....	84.1	110.4	141.0	153.5	153.7	82.8	39.2	8.9
Power-driven hand tools.....	95.3	103.0	120.3	125.3	126.1	32.3	22.4	4.2

¹ These indexes are a continuation of index numbers of dealer or distributor prices for construction machinery and equipment computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from August 1939 to June 1947, with an August 1939=100 base; they were first released in a report, Prices of Construction Machinery, August 1939-December 1945 (BLS Serial No. R 1839), and subsequently were published quarterly through June 1947. With the introduction of the revised Wholesale Price Index (1947-49=100), a slightly reduced and reweighted sample of construction machinery and equipment was included as a component of the Machinery and Motive Products subgroup of that index.

The former special index for construction machinery and equipment, recalculated on the 1947-49=100 base, for August 1939 and the years 1940-46 is as follows:

	August 1939	Annual average						
		1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Index	65.6	66.4	70.1	72.4	72.4	72.5	72.9	79.2

For the major groups of machinery in the special index, similarly rebased annual and monthly indexes for the 1939-46 period are available on request.

In 1955, construction machinery prices rose almost every month and by the end of the year were nearly 8 percent above the January level. This was the sharpest annual price rise since the outbreak of Korean hostilities, and reflected pressures on prices arising from increased construction activity and industrial expansion with attendant competition for materials and labor. During 1955, the value of shipments of construction machinery and equipment rose almost 24 percent after declining 11 percent in the previous year.

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The first quarter of 1956 followed a similar pattern. Shipments increased 13 percent over the previous quarter and the price index showed fractional increases each month.

Of the major types of machinery included in the construction machinery and equipment index, two showed larger price increases in the 1947-56 period than the 66 percent registered for the group as a whole (table 1). Prices of heavy-duty tractors for construction and industrial use were up 83 percent, and the index for earth-moving equipment, such as bulldozers and shovels, rose 70 percent. Recent monthly changes in the indexes for various types of machinery are shown in table 2.²

TABLE 2.—WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES OF CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, AND POWER-DRIVEN HAND TOOLS, JANUARY 1954-MARCH 1956

(1947-49=100)

Year and month	Construction machinery and equipment								Power-driven hand tools
	All types	Power cranes, draglines, shovels	Tractor-mounted machinery	Specialized machinery	Portable air compressors	Scrapers and graders	Contractors' air tools, hand-held	Mixers, pavers, spreaders	
1954: Avg. ...	131.6	130.9	133.8	123.4	125.1	129.4	125.0	122.0	140.4
Jan. ...	131.2	129.9	133.2	124.3	124.8	129.4	125.0	122.9	139.5
Feb. ...	131.5	131.0	133.2	123.9	124.8	129.4	125.0	122.9	139.5
Mar. ...	131.7	131.0	133.9	123.9	124.8	129.4	125.0	122.9	139.9
Apr. ...	131.6	130.5	133.9	123.8	124.8	129.4	125.0	122.3	140.6
May ...	131.5	130.5	133.9	123.8	124.8	129.4	125.0	121.2	140.6
June ...	131.5	130.5	133.9	123.8	124.8	129.4	125.0	121.5	140.6
July ...	131.5	130.6	133.9	123.4	124.8	129.4	125.0	121.5	140.6
Aug. ...	131.5	130.6	133.9	122.8	125.6	129.4	125.0	121.6	140.6
Sept. ...	131.6	130.7	133.9	122.8	125.6	129.4	125.0	121.6	120.0
Oct. ...	131.6	130.7	133.9	122.8	125.6	129.4	125.0	121.6	140.6
Nov. ...	131.8	131.0	133.9	122.8	125.6	129.4	125.0	121.7	140.9
Dec. ...	132.6	133.4	133.9	122.8	125.6	129.4	125.0	122.0	141.0
1955: Avg. ...	137.1	138.1	136.7	126.0	133.1	133.1	128.3	127.7	145.7
Jan. ...	133.2	133.8	134.5	122.8	132.0	129.4	125.0	122.7	141.6
Feb. ...	133.8	134.5	134.2	122.9	132.0	129.4	125.0	125.7	142.1
Mar. ...	133.8	134.0	134.2	122.9	132.0	130.0	125.0	126.6	142.3
Apr. ...	134.1	134.8	134.3	122.9	132.0	130.1	125.0	126.6	142.5
May ...	134.3	135.1	134.8	123.4	133.6	130.1	125.0	126.7	142.5
June ...	134.7	135.7	134.8	123.4	133.6	130.1	125.0	126.7	142.9
July ...	134.7	135.7	134.8	123.4	133.6	130.1	125.0	126.7	142.9
Aug. ...	138.2	141.5	136.1	124.9	133.6	133.8	125.0	128.9	145.9
Sept. ...	140.5	142.6	139.2	129.6	133.6	138.1	132.1	129.1	148.8
Oct. ...	142.1	142.8	140.8	131.4	133.6	139.3	135.7	130.2	124.6
Nov. ...	142.4	143.1	140.8	132.3	133.6	139.3	135.7	130.5	125.6
Dec. ...	143.1	143.6	141.8	132.3	133.6	138.0	135.7	132.5	152.1
1956: Jan. ...	143.2	143.6	141.8	133.4	133.6	138.0	135.7	133.3	153.5
Feb. ...	143.5	144.4	141.8	133.8	133.6	138.0	135.7	133.3	126.2
Mar. ...	143.6	144.4	141.8	133.8	133.6	138.0	135.7	133.3	126.1

During the period following World War II, many improvements were made in the operating efficiency and capacity of the construction industry's machinery and equipment. These physical changes have been responsible for higher selling prices for typical machines. In the computation of the indexes, manufacturers' price adjustments resulting from changes in quality have been excluded. The price indexes, therefore, are designed to measure "real" changes between two periods of time, unaffected by changes in product design, capacity, quality, or terms of sale.³

² Annual data for 1947-51 and monthly data beginning with January 1952 were introduced in the March 1953 issue of Construction, which was replaced by Construction Review in January 1955.

³ Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, BLS Bull. 1168, December 1954 (Chap. 10, Wholesale Price Indexes, p. 84).

Revised Outlook for New Construction in 1956

Outlays for new construction are expected to total \$44-1/2 billion in 1956, or 4 percent above last year's record of \$43 billion, according to revised outlook estimates prepared jointly by the U. S. Department of Labor and the U. S. Department of Commerce.

These revised estimates reflect very little change in total construction activity from the \$44-billion level projected for 1956 by these agencies last November. Present indications are that, compared with earlier expectations, new housing will decline more, but utilities, private industrial buildings, and highways, will show greater gains.

NEW CONSTRUCTION PUT IN PLACE IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES DURING 1955
AND OUTLOOK FOR 1956¹

Type of construction	Valuation (in millions)		Percent change
	1955	1956	
Total new construction	\$42,991	\$44,500	+ 4
Private construction	30,572	31,000	+ 1
Residential building (nonfarm)	16,595	15,500	- 7
New dwelling units	14,990	13,750	- 8
Additions and alterations	1,266	1,300	+ 3
Nonhousekeeping	339	450	+33
Nonresidential building (nonfarm)	7,612	8,750	+15
Industrial	2,399	3,000	+25
Commercial	3,043	3,425	+13
Office buildings and warehouses	1,136	1,275	+12
Stores, restaurants, and garages	1,907	2,150	+13
Other nonresidential building	2,170	2,325	+ 7
Religious	734	750	+ 2
Educational	492	550	+12
Hospital and institutional	351	275	-22
Social and recreational	239	250	+ 5
Miscellaneous	354	500	+41
Farm construction	1,600	1,500	- 6
Public utility	4,604	5,100	+11
Railroad	374	450	+20
Telephone and telegraph	805	975	+21
Other public utility	3,425	3,675	+ 7
Local transit	25	25	0
Pipelines	325	350	+ 8
Electric light and power	1,800	1,900	+ 6
Gas	1,275	1,400	+10
All other private	161	150	- 7
Public construction	12,419	13,500	+ 9
Residential building	263	275	+ 5
Nonresidential building	4,227	4,025	- 5
Industrial	721	425	-41
Educational	2,442	2,600	+ 6
Hospital and institutional	331	275	-17
Other nonresidential building	733	725	- 1
Military facilities	1,297	1,400	+ 8
Highway	4,520	5,150	+14
Sewage disposal	615	700	+14
Water supply	470	600	+28
Public service enterprises	279	500	+79
Conservation and development	593	675	+14
All other public	155	175	+13

¹ Joint estimates of the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce.

The present outlook for construction assumes that the current high level of overall economic activity will remain relatively stable, and that disposable income of consumers will continue at record levels. Nationwide, supplies of building materials should be adequate, with increased plant capacity

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and high productivity preventing all but minor or spot shortages. Construction costs are expected to continue to rise moderately.

Prospects are that private construction outlays in 1956 will total about the same as in 1955--\$31 billion. Public spending for new construction is expected to advance 9 percent to \$13-1/2 billion.

It now appears that about 1,150,000 new private nonfarm dwelling units will be started this year. This compares with an earlier estimate of 1,200,000 for 1956, and a 1955 total of 1,310,000. On a seasonally adjusted basis, private starts during the first 5 months of this year were at an annual rate slightly below 1,150,000. Expenditures for privately owned dwelling-unit construction in 1956 are projected at \$13-3/4 billion, or 8 percent below the \$15-billion record level of 1955--reflecting a 12-percent drop in housing starts, but a rise in construction costs and a continuing trend toward larger homes with more quality features.

The decline in new homebuilding is expected to be greater than previously anticipated because funds for long-term, low downpayment mortgages, at low interest rates, have remained relatively scarce for a longer period than was foreseen last November.

However, increased outlays for highways, private industrial plants, utilities, and commercial buildings will probably more than offset the decrease in new housing activity. Expenditures for each of these nonresidential categories are expected to reach a new record volume in 1956.

The value of work put in place both on highways and on privately owned public utilities will go over the \$5 billion level for the first time in 1956. The most significant gains among the several kinds of utilities will probably occur in railroad, telephone and telegraph, gas plant, and electric light and power facilities construction. Private spending for new industrial plant expansion may reach the \$3 billion mark, and new commercial building outlays probably will exceed \$3.4 billion.

All other types of construction are likely to show at least a slight gain in 1956, except hospital construction (private and public), farm construction, and public industrial building.

Construction of public service enterprises is scheduled for a substantial advance, reflecting largely gains in work put in place on power and other facilities connected with the St. Lawrence Seaway. Construction of public schools and sewer and water facilities will probably advance to an alltime high.

It is anticipated that expenditures for military facilities will continue to rise this year. Outlays for public housing (including title VIII military housing) and for conservation and development projects are expected to increase for the first time in several years.

* * * *

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES, BY TYPE: 1950 TO 1956

This special report, issued recently by the Bureau of the Census, provides current and historical information about households in the United States, such as type of household (comprised of relatives, or unrelated individuals living alone or with others); location of household (urban and rural nonfarm vs. farm); sex of the head of the household; and the extent to which "undoubling" occurred. The report covers results of sample surveys made in March or April during the 6 years 1950-56, and similar surveys made in 1947-49 and 1940.

Data given in the report, for example, show that during the 6 years ending in March 1956, the number of nonfarm households increased by about 1 million a year, and rural farm households declined by about 100,000 a year; and during the same period the proportion of married couples without their own households declined by 37.4 percent.

Copies of Households and Families, by Type: 1950 to 1956 (Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics, Series P-20, No. 68) may be obtained at 10 cents each, from the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

STATISTICAL SERIES

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NOTE: ALL THE STATISTICAL SERIES IN CONSTRUCTION REVIEW
ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION FOR THE LATEST PERIOD SHOWN.

Part I--Construction Put in Place

Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)					Percent change		
	1956		1955	First 6 months		June 1956 from--	First 6 months, 1955-56	
	June	May	June	1956	1955	May 1956	June 1955	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	3,993	3,707	3,936	19,910	19,556	+ 8	+ 1	+ 2
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,715	2,543	2,766	14,185	14,030	+ 7	- 2	+ 1
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,354	1,269	1,545	7,029	7,650	+ 7	-12	- 8
New dwelling units.....	1,185	1,105	1,380	6,235	6,915	+ 7	-14	-10
Additions and alterations	130	128	133	596	590	+ 2	- 2	+ 1
Nonhousekeeping	39	36	32	198	145	+ 8	+22	+37
Nonresidential building	752	698	633	4,067	3,429	+ 8	+19	+19
Industrial	257	247	190	1,414	1,116	+ 4	+35	+27
Commercial	289	265	259	1,568	1,304	+ 9	+12	+20
Office buildings and warehouses.....	105	101	90	607	513	+ 4	+17	+18
Stores, restaurants, and garages	184	164	169	961	791	+12	+ 9	+21
Other nonresidential building	206	186	184	1,085	1,009	+11	+12	+ 8
Religious	61	56	62	336	335	+ 9	- 2	(1)
Educational	45	42	39	247	229	+ 7	+15	+ 8
Hospital and institutional	25	24	30	149	172	+ 4	-17	-13
Social and recreational	24	21	22	117	109	+14	+ 9	+ 7
Miscellaneous	51	43	31	236	164	+19	+65	+44
Farm construction	150	139	160	717	759	+ 8	- 6	- 6
Public utility	448	427	412	2,321	2,105	+ 5	+ 9	+10
Railroad	38	36	34	201	165	+ 6	+12	+22
Telephone and telegraph	85	80	72	460	358	+ 6	+18	+28
Other public utility	325	311	306	1,660	1,582	+ 5	+ 6	+ 5
All other private	11	10	16	51	87	+10	-31	-41
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,278	1,164	1,170	5,725	5,526	+10	+ 9	+ 4
Residential building	19	19	24	115	134	0	-21	-14
Nonresidential building	353	337	383	1,888	2,132	+ 5	- 8	-11
Industrial.....	33	32	68	198	456	+ 3	-51	-57
Educational	220	216	217	1,214	1,180	+ 2	+ 1	+ 3
Hospital and institutional	27	27	31	140	162	0	-13	-14
Other nonresidential building	73	62	67	336	334	+18	+ 9	+ 1
Military facilities	122	113	119	579	558	+ 8	+ 3	+ 4
Highway	545	470	449	2,000	1,735	+16	+21	+15
Sewer and water	115	109	99	577	510	+ 6	+16	+13
Sewer	63	60	56	318	289	+ 5	+13	+10
Water	52	49	43	259	221	+ 6	+21	+17
Public service enterprises.....	45	42	26	203	100	+ 7	+73	+103
Conservation and development	63	58	56	285	285	+ 9	+13	0
All other public	16	16	14	78	72	0	+14	+ 8

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 2--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1955												1956				
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June				
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	3,936	4,085	4,205	4,148	4,037	3,702	3,258	2,938	2,811	3,072	3,389	3,707	3,993				
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,766	2,862	2,893	2,879	2,810	2,663	2,435	2,176	2,087	2,261	2,403	2,543	2,715				
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,545	1,590	1,587	1,561	1,509	1,419	1,279	1,080	998	1,116	1,212	1,269	1,354				
New dwelling units	1,380	1,430	1,435	1,410	1,360	1,280	1,160	980	895	1,000	1,070	1,105	1,185				
Additions and alterations	133	127	119	119	116	107	88	70	73	86	109	128	130				
Nonhousekeeping	32	33	33	32	33	32	31	30	30	30	33	36	39				
Nonresidential building	633	668	686	714	721	715	679	650	647	656	664	698	752				
Industrial	190	199	205	213	219	224	223	223	224	226	237	247	257				
Commercial	259	277	286	303	306	297	270	251	252	258	253	265	289				
Office buildings and warehouses	90	95	99	102	106	112	109	105	101	97	98	101	105				
Stores, restaurants, and garages	169	182	187	201	200	185	161	146	151	161	155	164	184				
Other nonresidential bldg.	184	192	195	198	196	194	186	176	171	172	174	186	206				
Religious	62	66	68	69	68	66	62	58	55	53	53	56	61				
Educational	39	41	43	45	45	45	44	41	40	39	40	42	45				
Hospital & institutional	30	31	31	31	30	29	27	26	25	25	24	24	25				
Social and recreational	22	23	23	22	21	21	20	18	17	18	19	21	24				
Miscellaneous	31	31	30	31	32	33	33	33	34	37	38	43	51				
Farm construction	160	169	172	159	132	111	98	97	101	109	121	139	150				
Public utility	412	419	434	433	437	407	369	341	334	373	398	427	448				
Railroad	34	34	35	36	39	35	30	30	29	33	35	36	38				
Telephone and telegraph	72	74	76	75	74	72	70	70	75	80	80	85					
Other public utility	306	311	323	321	323	298	267	241	235	265	283	311	325				
All other private	16	16	14	12	11	11	10	8	7	7	8	10	11				
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,170	1,223	1,312	1,269	1,227	1,039	823	762	724	811	986	1,164	1,278				
Residential building	24	20	23	22	22	21	21	20	20	18	19	19	19				
Nonresidential building	383	384	380	374	350	321	286	292	285	303	318	337	353				
Industrial	68	61	51	45	40	38	30	35	34	33	31	32	33				
Educational	217	220	223	221	212	200	186	190	187	195	206	216	220				
Hospital and institutional	31	32	32	32	28	25	20	20	19	23	24	27	27				
Other nonresidential bldg.	67	71	74	76	70	58	50	47	45	52	57	62	73				
Military facilities	119	123	131	136	136	116	97	84	78	84	98	113	122				
Highway	449	491	569	533	524	405	263	210	195	230	350	470	545				
Sewer and water	99	104	105	100	97	89	80	82	77	92	102	109	115				
Sewer	56	60	59	56	54	51	46	46	42	50	57	60	63				
Water	43	44	46	44	43	38	34	36	35	42	45	49	52				
Public service enterprises	26	31	35	35	31	25	22	25	23	30	38	42	45				
Conservation and development	56	56	54	53	52	49	44	39	36	42	47	58	63				
All other public	14	14	15	16	15	13	10	10	10	12	14	16	16				

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST	NORTH CENTRAL	SOUTH	WEST
1. New England	3. E. N. Central	4. W. N. Central	5. S. Atlantic
Connecticut	Illinois	Iowa	Delaware
Maine	Indiana	Kansas	Dist. of Col.
Massachusetts	Michigan	Minnesota	Kentucky
New Hampshire	Ohio	Missouri	Florida
Rhode Island	Wisconsin	Nebraska	Georgia
Vermont		North Dakota	Tennessee
2. Middle Atlantic		South Dakota	Maryland
New Jersey			N. Carolina
New York			S. Carolina
Pennsylvania			Virginia
			W. Virginia
			7. W. S. Central
			Arkansas
			Louisiana
			Oklahoma
			Texas
			8. Mountain
			Arizona
			Colorado
			Idaho
			Montana
			Nevada
			New Mexico
			Utah
			Wyoming
			9. Pacific
			California
			Oregon
			Washington

NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950

NORTHEAST—29.5 percent.

NORTH CENTRAL—29.0 percent.

SOUTH—27.7 percent.

WEST—13.8 percent.

Chart I.

New Construction Put in Place

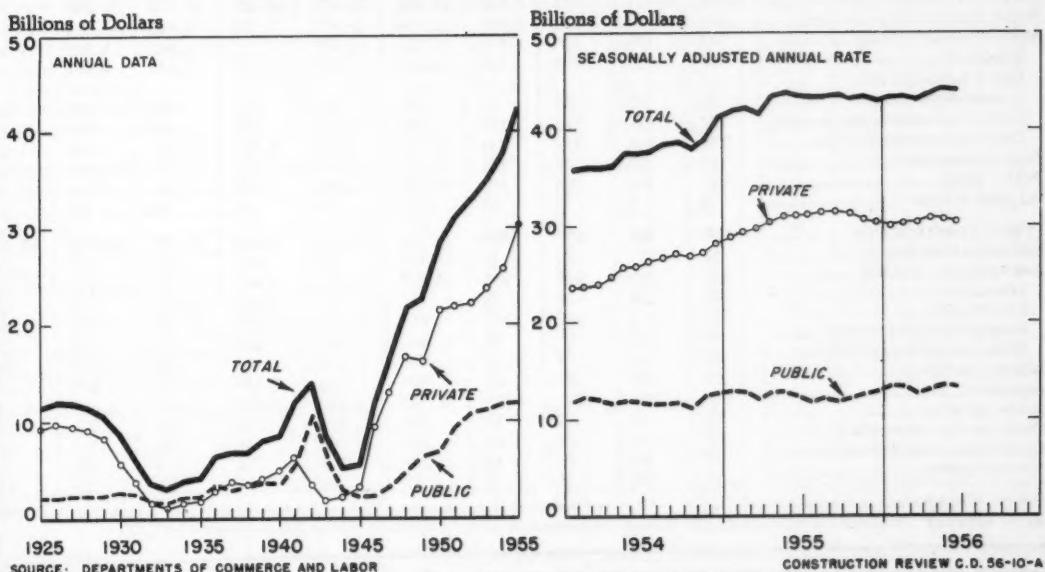


Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate						Annual total	
	1955	1956						
	June	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1954 1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	43,296	43,416	43,500	43,020	43,896	44,148	43,920	37,782 42,991
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	30,936	30,072	30,264	30,372	30,756	30,624	30,480	25,853 30,572
Residential building (nonfarm)	17,040	15,432	15,348	15,216	15,312	15,072	14,904	13,496 16,595
Nonresidential building	7,464	7,968	8,256	8,496	8,796	8,856	8,892	6,250 7,612
Industrial	2,376	2,604	2,640	2,736	2,904	3,084	3,216	2,030 2,399
Commercial	2,940	3,192	3,384	3,492	3,516	3,348	3,276	2,212 3,043
Office buildings and warehouses	1,152	1,200	1,224	1,248	1,296	1,320	1,344	958 1,136
Stores, restaurants, and garages	1,788	1,992	2,160	2,244	2,220	2,028	1,932	1,254 1,907
Other nonresidential building	2,148	2,172	2,232	2,268	2,376	2,424	2,400	2,008 2,170
Farm construction	1,596	1,560	1,548	1,536	1,524	1,512	1,500	1,645 1,600
Public utility	4,680	4,992	5,016	5,028	5,028	5,076	5,076	4,341 4,604
All other private	156	120	96	96	96	108	108	121 161
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	12,360	13,344	13,236	12,648	13,140	13,524	13,440	11,929 12,419
Residential building	276	264	264	228	240	228	216	336 263
Nonresidential building	4,368	3,984	4,068	3,864	3,816	3,924	4,032	4,641 4,227
Military facilities	1,392	1,200	1,236	1,152	1,248	1,416	1,416	1,030 1,297
Highway	4,200	5,604	5,316	4,932	5,256	5,316	5,196	3,870 4,520
Sewer and water	1,092	1,176	1,200	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272	982 1,085
Public service enterprises	252	396	420	432	504	468	432	218 279
Conservation and development	636	576	576	612	636	720	708	704 593
All other public	144	144	156	156	168	180	168	148 155

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

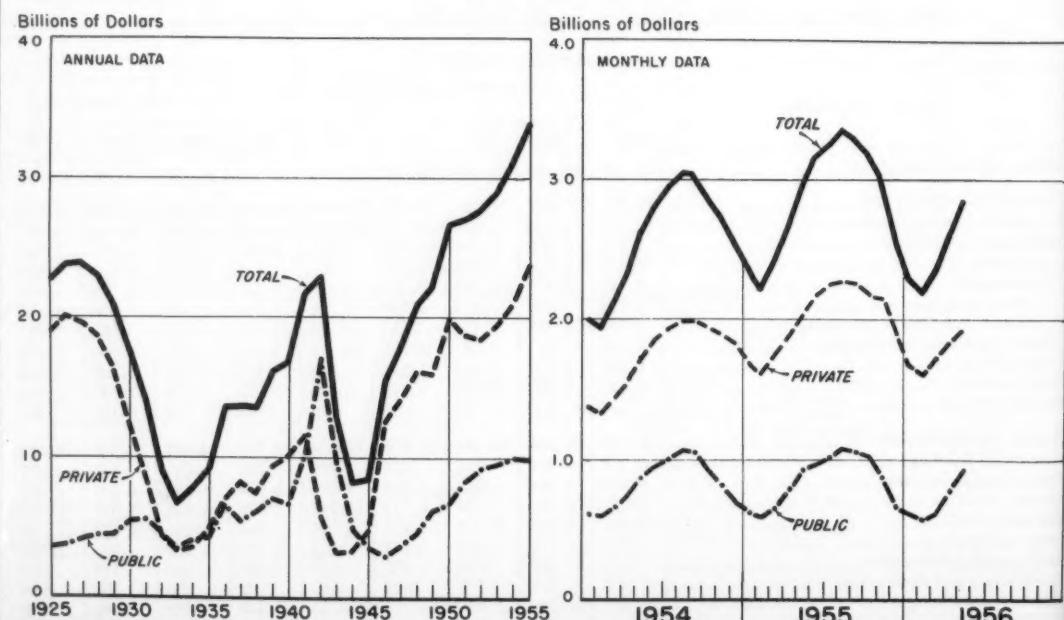
Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	1956			1955			Year				
	May	Apr.	Mar.	May	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	2,851	2,614	2,370	2,984	26,608	26,988	27,662	28,931	31,094	*34,476	
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	1,921	1,829	1,731	2,048	19,885	18,677	18,428	19,433	21,000	*24,155	
Residential building (nonfarm)	978	940	872	1,160	11,634	9,457	9,311	9,840	11,214	*13,378	
Nonresidential building	527	506	501	470	3,566	4,494	4,211	4,655	5,073	5,995	
Industrial	191	185	177	150	1,004	1,790	1,909	1,807	1,690	1,946	
Office buildings and warehouses	76	75	74	71	396	500	461	640	789	898	
Stores, restaurants, and garages	122	116	121	115	828	733	525	857	998	1,473	
Other nonresidential bldgs.	138	130	129	134	1,338	1,471	1,316	1,351	1,596	1,678	
Farm construction	112	99	89	125	1,583	1,616	1,643	1,484	1,407	1,350	
Public utility	297	279	264	282	3,001	3,056	3,194	3,362	3,216	3,319	
All other private	7	5	5	11	101	54	69	92	90	113	
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	930	785	639	936	6,723	8,311	9,234	9,498	10,094	10,321	
Residential building	15	15	14	18	321	512	550	459	281	213	
Nonresidential building	252	239	229	295	2,237	3,050	3,465	3,531	-3,743	3,299	
Industrial	25	24	26	58	212	821	1,384	1,434	1,253	588	
Educational	161	154	147	165	1,061	1,337	1,375	1,397	1,696	1,888	
Hospital and institutional	20	18	17	23	467	466	401	297	289	257	
Other nonresidential building	46	43	39	49	497	426	305	403	505	566	
Military facilities	89	78	67	88	171	788	1,195	1,105	872	1,067	
Highway	422	316	209	405	2,367	2,349	2,489	2,851	3,689	4,249	
Sewer and water	74	70	63	69	590	655	639	681	724	770	
Public service enterprises	28	25	20	14	164	168	148	146	156	192	
Conservation and development	39	32	29	38	786	721	694	639	520	421	
All other public	11	10	8	9	87	68	54	86	109	110	

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. *Revised from June issue, to correct clerical error in November 1955 data, which, amended, are (in millions): Total new construction-\$2,927; Private construction-\$2,075; Residential building (private nonfarm)-\$1,129.

Chart 2

New Construction Put in Place (In 1947-49 Prices)



CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)								Percent change		
	1955		1956				First 6 months		June 1956 from	First 6 months, 1955-56	
	June	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	1955	1956	June 1955	May 1956	
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	1,170	724	811	986	1,164	1,278	5,526	5,725	+ 9	+10	+ 4
Federal funds	335	192	209	249	299	339	1,658	1,495	+ 1	+13	-10
Direct Federal	260	156	170	189	221	243	1,359	1,146	- 7	+10	-16
Federal grants-in-aid ¹	75	36	39	60	78	96	299	349	+28	+23	+17
State and local funds	835	532	602	737	865	939	3,868	4,230	+12	+ 9	+ 9
FEDERALLY OWNED	260	156	170	189	221	243	1,359	1,146	- 7	+10	-16
Residential building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonresidential building	76	39	39	37	41	48	485	244	-37	+17	-50
Industrial	68	34	33	31	32	33	456	198	-51	+ 3	-57
Educational	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	-100	-100	-33
Hospital	2	2	3	2	3	3	10	15	+50	0	+50
Other nonresidential	4	3	3	3	5	12	16	29	+200	+140	+81
Military facilities	119	78	84	98	113	122	558	579	+ 3	+ 8	+ 4
Highway	8	3	4	6	8	9	26	34	+13	+13	+31
Conservation and development	56	36	42	47	58	63	285	285	+13	+ 9	0
All other federally owned	1	0	1	1	1	1	5	4	0	0	-20
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	910	568	641	797	943	1,035	4,167	4,579	+14	+10	+10
Residential building	24	20	18	19	19	19	134	115	-21	0	-14
Nonresidential building	307	246	264	281	296	305	1,647	1,644	- 1	+ 3	(2)
Educational	215	187	195	205	215	220	1,177	1,212	+ 2	+ 2	+ 3
Hospital	29	17	20	22	24	24	152	125	-17	0	-18
Other nonresidential	63	42	49	54	57	61	318	307	- 3	+ 7	- 3
Highway	441	192	226	344	462	536	1,709	1,966	+22	+16	+15
Sewer and water	99	77	92	102	109	115	510	577	+16	+ 6	+13
Sewer	56	42	50	57	60	63	289	318	+13	+ 5	+10
Water	43	35	42	45	49	52	221	259	+21	+ 6	+17
All other State and locally owned	39	33	41	51	57	60	167	277	+54	+ 5	+66

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

¹Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.

²Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

**Number of New Permanent Nonfarm Dwelling Units
Started Annually, 1910-19**

Year	Number of dwelling units (in thousands)	
	Former series ¹	Revised series ²
1910	475	387
1911	480	395
1912	490	426
1913	455	421
1914	445	421
1915	475	433
1916	480	437
1917	230	240
1918	120	118
1919	330	315

¹ Derived by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. See Estimating National Housing Volume (Chapter 2 of BLS Bulletin No. 1168, Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, p. 8).

² These revised estimates for 1910-19, prepared by David M. Blank of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc., replace the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates for 1910-19 shown in all Government publications to date. The derivation of the David Blank estimates, based on historical building-permit data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, is described in the NBER Technical Paper No. 9, The Volume of Residential Construction, 1889-1950.

Part II-New Housing

NOTE: See preceding page for revised annual estimates of nonfarm housing starts, 1910-19.

Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

Period	Total	Ownership		Location ¹		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metro- politan	Nonmetro- politan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures	All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS (in thousands)									
Year: 1946.....	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947.....	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948.....	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949.....	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950.....	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951.....	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952.....	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953.....	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954.....	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
1955.....	1,328.9	1,309.5	19.4	975.8	353.1	1,194.4	134.5	49.2	85.3
First 5 months, 1955.....	560.9	553.6	7.3	418.3	142.6	499.4	61.5	22.3	39.2
First 5 months, 1956.....	463.3	457.1	6.2	332.8	130.5	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1955: May.....	137.6	135.1	2.5	99.7	37.9	122.2	15.4	5.1	10.3
June.....	134.5	131.4	3.1	98.3	36.2	121.8	12.7	4.4	8.3
July.....	122.7	121.9	.8	88.4	34.3	113.5	9.2	3.9	5.3
August.....	124.7	122.3	2.4	91.5	33.2	111.6	13.1	3.8	9.3
September.....	114.9	113.6	1.3	83.5	31.4	104.1	10.8	3.6	7.2
October.....	105.8	104.8	1.0	76.5	29.3	95.1	10.7	3.7	7.0
November.....	89.2	88.4	.8	64.6	24.6	80.4	8.8	4.3	4.5
December.....	76.2	73.5	2.7	54.7	21.5	68.5	7.7	3.2	4.5
1956: January.....	75.0	73.7	1.3	54.3	20.7	66.8	8.2	3.2	5.0
February.....	78.3	77.0	1.3	57.6	20.7	69.1	9.2	3.6	5.6
March.....	96.0	94.4	1.6	68.8	27.2	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
April.....	106.0	105.0	1.0	75.3	30.7	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
May.....	108.0	107.0	1.0	76.8	31.2	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
Percent change									
First 5 months, 1955-56.....	-17.4	-17.4	-15.1	-20.4	-8.5	--	--	--	--
April-May, 1956.....	+ 1.9	+ 1.9	0	+ 2.0	+ 1.6	--	--	--	--
May, 1955-56.....	-21.5	-20.8	-60.0	-23.0	-17.7	--	--	--	--
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION									
Year: 1946.....	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947.....	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948.....	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949.....	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950.....	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951.....	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952.....	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953.....	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954.....	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
1955.....	100	98.5	1.5	73.4	26.6	89.9	10.1	3.7	6.4
First 5 months, 1955.....	100	98.7	1.3	74.6	25.4	89.0	11.0	4.0	7.0
First 5 months, 1956.....	100	98.7	1.3	71.8	28.2	--	--	--	--
1955: May.....	100	98.2	1.8	72.5	27.5	88.8	11.2	3.7	7.5
June.....	100	97.7	2.3	73.1	26.9	90.6	9.4	3.3	6.1
July.....	100	99.3	.7	72.0	28.0	92.5	7.5	3.2	4.3
August.....	100	98.1	1.9	73.4	26.6	89.5	10.5	3.0	7.5
September.....	100	98.9	1.1	72.7	27.3	90.6	9.4	3.1	6.3
October.....	100	99.1	.9	72.3	27.7	89.9	10.1	3.5	6.6
November.....	100	99.1	.9	72.4	27.6	90.1	9.9	4.8	5.1
December.....	100	96.5	3.5	71.8	28.2	89.9	10.1	4.2	5.9
1956: January.....	100	98.3	1.7	72.4	27.6	89.1	10.9	4.3	6.6
February.....	100	98.3	1.7	73.6	26.4	88.3	11.7	4.6	7.1
March.....	100	98.3	1.7	71.7	28.3	--	--	--	--
April.....	100	99.1	.9	71.0	29.0	--	--	--	--
May.....	100	99.1	.9	71.1	28.9	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request.

² Annual data

not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953.

³ Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the

number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request.

⁴ Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

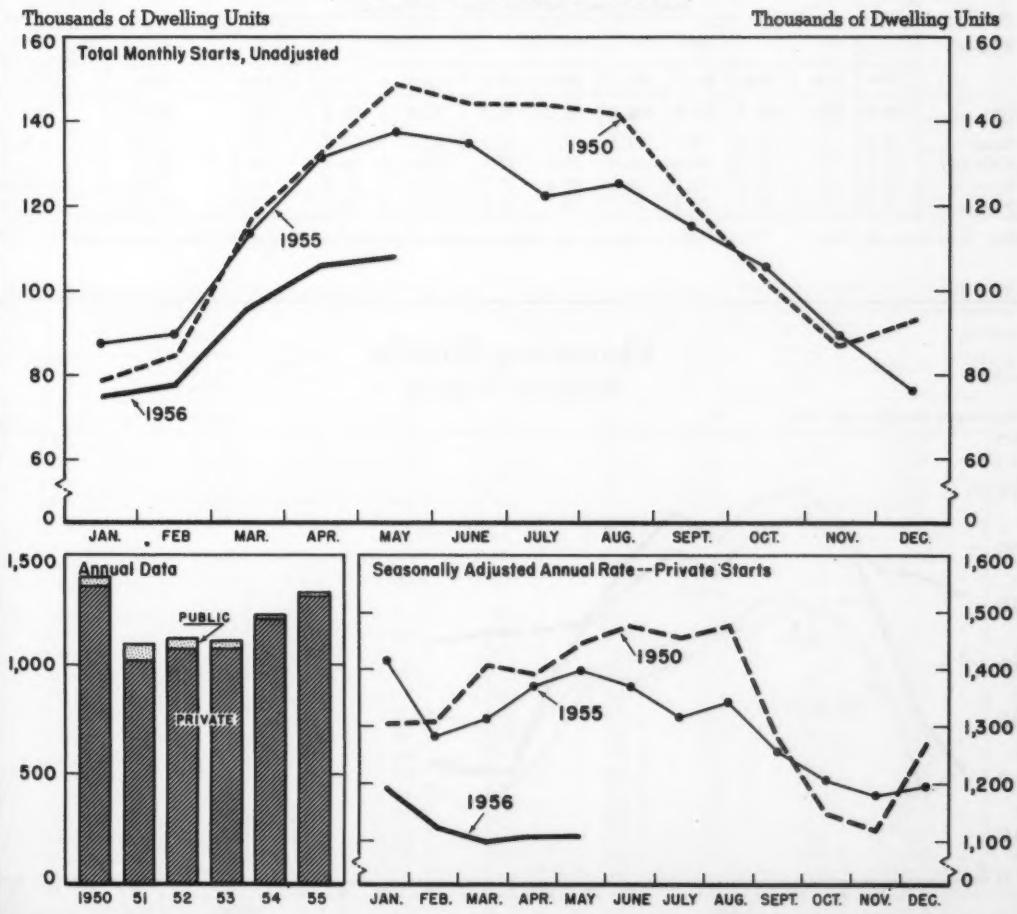
Year	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946.....	682	709	756	719	698	662	642	638	601	607	612	647
1947.....	694	720	696	710	749	802	847	899	981	1,018	1,013	962
1948.....	938	829	955	1,019	997	990	969	898	862	806	802	807
1949.....	800	796	814	885	905	929	964	1,028	1,094	1,156	1,240	1,250
1950.....	1,306	1,310	1,406	1,390	1,448	1,476	1,460	1,478	1,282	1,149	1,120	1,269
1951.....	1,343	1,156	1,068	990	983	948	925	961	1,052	1,002	976	967
1952.....	1,000	1,086	1,060	1,037	1,039	1,029	1,084	1,075	1,099	1,121	1,100	1,092
1953.....	1,102	1,083	1,122	1,134	1,097	1,082	1,045	1,021	1,024	1,026	1,050	1,032
1954.....	1,056	1,081	1,086	1,121	1,111	1,175	1,221	1,244	1,260	1,275	1,377	1,458
1955.....	1,416	1,286	1,314	1,374	1,398	1,371	1,318	1,346	1,262	1,209	1,179	1,192
1956.....	1,195	1,127	1,100	1,110	1,110							

Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 3.

Housing Starts

(UNADJUSTED AND SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST												
1946.....	\$5,250	\$5,400	\$5,850	\$5,575	\$5,475	\$5,425	\$5,375	\$5,450	\$5,450	\$5,625	\$5,675	\$5,575	\$5,525
1947.....	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948.....	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949.....	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950.....	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951.....	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952.....	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953.....	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954.....	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955.....	10,575	11,125	11,250	11,250	11,400	11,400	11,475	11,425	11,525	11,575	11,575	11,625	11,350
1956.....	11,325	11,750											
	Percent change, 1955 to 1956												
	+7.1	+5.6											

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region¹

Region	Number of new dwelling units (in thousands)										Percent change, first 2 mos. 1955-56	
	1955						1956		First 2 months			
	Feb.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	1955	1956		
TOTAL	89.9	122.7	124.7	114.9	105.8	89.2	76.2	75.0	78.3	177.5	153.3	-13.6
Northeast	13.5	27.1	24.9	23.4	23.5	17.7	14.3	12.4	14.4	29.5	26.8	-9.2
North Central....	19.7	35.6	38.0	34.4	29.4	23.0	15.6	15.7	16.4	35.3	32.1	-9.1
South	32.4	32.7	34.8	31.9	28.5	27.8	27.7	27.3	26.8	63.0	54.1	-14.1
West	24.3	27.3	27.0	25.2	24.4	20.7	18.6	19.6	20.7	49.7	40.3	-18.9

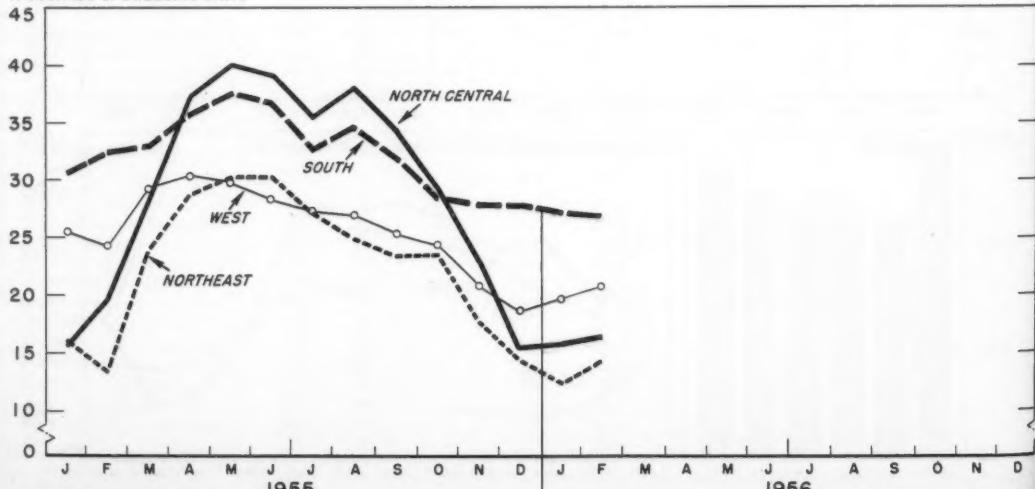
Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

Chart 4

Housing Starts (Regional Trends)

THOUSANDS OF DWELLING UNITS



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals Requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started (in thousands)	In appraisal requests	Started (in thousands)	U. S. total	FHA- assisted	VA- assisted
NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS							
Year: 1950.....	625,343	486.7	(1)	200.0	100	36	15
1951.....	267,127	263.5	164,365	148.6	100	26	15
1952.....	323,753	280.0	226,299	141.3	100	26	13
1953.....	327,323	252.0	251,437	156.6	100	24	15
1954.....	383,334	276.3	535,412	307.0	100	23	26
1955.....	314,888	277.1	620,776	391.8	100	21	30
First 5 mos., 1955.....	155,760	114.8	317,471	156.3	100	21	28
First 5 mos., 1956.....	110,780	82.7	194,093	114.0	100	18	25
1955: May	31,111	28.0	69,280	37.8	100	21	28
June	32,521	32.1	52,424	39.5	100	24	30
July	25,033	26.0	51,412	37.4	100	21	31
August	27,294	26.9	55,974	40.8	100	22	33
September	23,840	24.7	45,063	33.4	100	22	29
October	19,836	18.6	43,143	34.8	100	18	33
November	16,921	17.5	30,397	28.1	100	20	32
December	13,683	16.2	24,892	21.6	100	22	29
1956: January	16,181	13.0	29,284	23.0	100	18	31
February.....	20,190	13.1	37,134	17.4	100	17	23
March	26,376	17.0	37,511	20.6	100	18	22
April	23,755	19.9	45,769	26.4	100	19	25
May	24,278	19.7	44,395	26.6	100	18	25
Percent change							
First 5 mos., 1955-56.....	-29	-28	-39	-27			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (HHFA) and the Veterans Administration.

¹Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of \$20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number (in thou- sands)	Average amount (dollars)	Total amount (in millions of dollars) recorded by--					
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals
Year: 1950	3,032	5,335	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299
1951	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539
1952	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758
1953	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841
1954	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882
1955	3,913	7,279	28,484	10,452	1,932	5,617	1,858	3,362
First 4 mos., 1955.....	1,232	7,136	8,794	3,218	646	1,658	513	1,053
First 4 mos., 1956.....	1,165	7,426	8,649	3,007	585	1,795	514	1,139
1955: April	328	7,182	2,357	900	165	456	136	276
May.....	344	7,215	2,483	950	163	482	153	286
June	360	7,312	2,636	1,024	174	516	171	301
July	335	7,348	2,463	953	161	472	168	283
August	366	7,362	2,697	1,060	163	521	179	310
September	342	7,977	2,522	946	155	505	168	292
October	326	7,320	2,387	835	153	505	167	285
November	314	7,380	2,316	765	152	499	171	285
December.....	293	7,457	2,188	700	156	457	166	268
1956: January	275	7,483	2,059	665	148	435	131	275
February	278	7,368	2,050	700	136	421	127	270
March	309	7,360	2,271	816	152	468	128	300
April.....	303	7,494	2,269	827	148	470	128	295
Percent change								
First 4 mos., 1955-56.....	-5	+ 4	- 2	- 7	-11	+ 8	(1)	+ 8
								- 5

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HHFA).

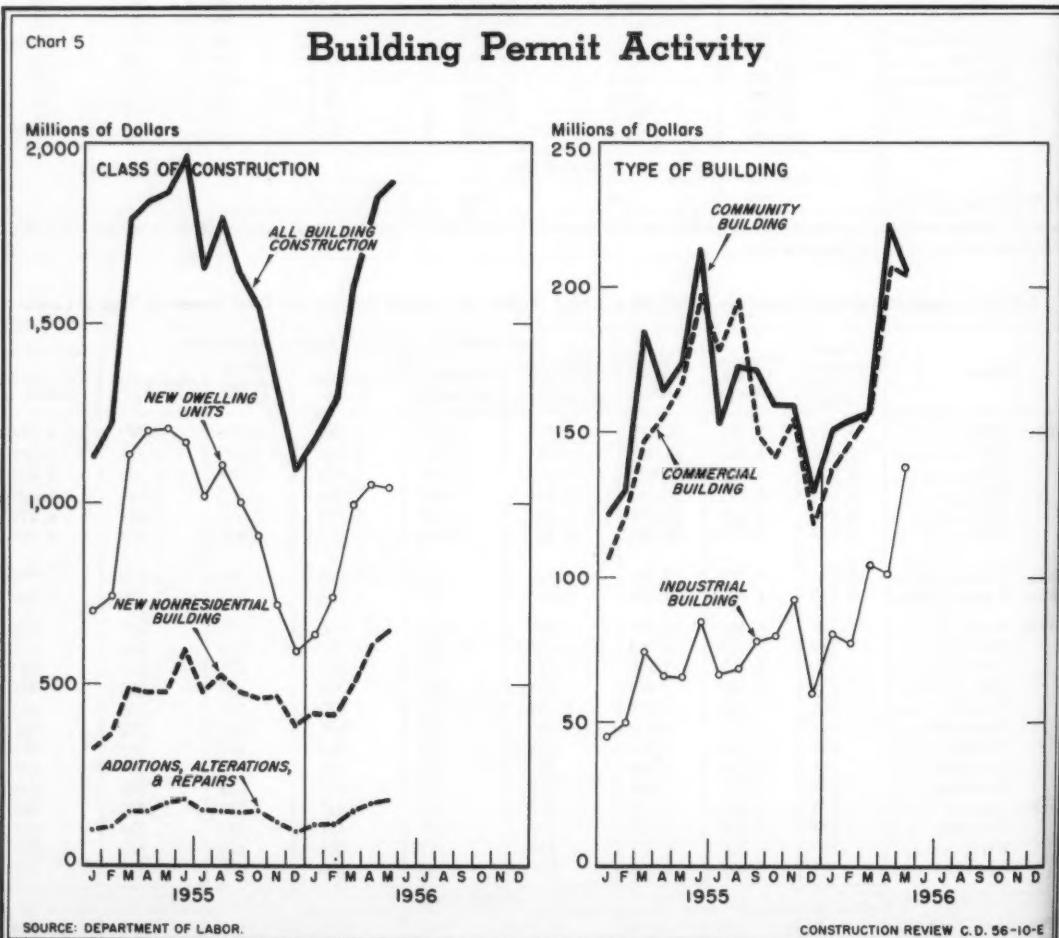
¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Part III-Building Permits

Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building Construction

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, May 1955-56
	1956			1955		First 5 months	
	May	Apr.	Mar.	May	1956	1955	
All building construction ¹	1,896.3	1,861.7	1,660.3	1,870.2	7,897.5	7,886.2	+ 1
Private	1,732.6	1,705.9	1,519.2	1,716.6	7,189.4	7,210.9	+ 1
Public	163.7	155.7	141.1	153.5	708.1	675.3	+ 7
New dwelling units ²	1,046.8	1,059.2	999.7	1,209.6	4,481.5	5,001.9	-13
Number of new dwelling units	(96,377)	(98,062)	(94,132)	(120,515)	(422,509)	(511,784)	(-20)
New nonresidential building	654.4	611.4	497.4	480.2	2,617.6	2,159.2	+36
Commercial buildings	204.3	206.0	157.8	168.9	850.1	696.9	+21
Stores and other mercantile buildings	101.4	109.0	91.8	96.3	439.7	392.1	+ 5
All other commercial buildings	102.9	97.0	66.0	72.6	410.4	304.8	+42
Community buildings	205.2	221.5	157.5	173.9	888.8	779.4	+18
Industrial buildings	138.4	101.4	104.7	65.2	501.4	298.4	+112
All other nonresidential buildings	106.5	82.6	77.4	72.2	377.4	384.4	+48
Additions, alterations, and repairs	181.5	176.3	150.0	170.4	739.2	657.3	+ 7

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately.² Housekeeping only.

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Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region¹

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 4 months 1955-56	
	1955		1956		First 4 months			
	Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1955	1956		
UNITED STATES								
All building construction ²	1,842.1	1,299.2	1,660.3	1,861.7	6,016.0	6,001.2	(3)	
New dwelling units ⁴	1,200.5	741.0	999.7	1,059.2	3,792.3	3,434.7	-9	
New nonresidential building.....	478.5	430.5	497.4	611.4	1,679.0	1,963.2	+17	
Commercial buildings.....	156.5	145.4	157.8	206.0	528.0	645.8	+22	
Amusement buildings.....	10.2	5.7	6.9	13.8	34.9	33.1	-5	
Commercial garages.....	4.1	4.1	3.9	6.3	14.8	17.1	+16	
Gasoline and service stations.....	13.5	11.1	12.7	14.2	43.0	47.8	+11	
Office buildings.....	44.9	51.2	42.5	62.8	139.5	209.7	+50	
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.....	83.7	73.2	91.8	109.0	295.8	338.3	+14	
Community buildings.....	165.2	153.9	157.5	221.5	605.5	683.6	+13	
Educational buildings.....	108.9	110.9	108.0	139.3	402.7	466.1	+16	
Institutional buildings.....	20.3	14.0	14.8	35.0	90.3	81.7	-10	
Religious buildings.....	36.0	29.0	34.7	47.1	112.6	135.7	+21	
Garages, private residential.....	19.7	6.5	13.0	21.8	44.1	47.4	+7	
Industrial buildings.....	66.0	77.2	104.7	101.4	233.2	363.0	+56	
Public buildings.....	25.1	10.8	19.9	16.4	111.4	66.6	-40	
Public utilities buildings.....	31.5	14.3	26.6	24.6	98.6	83.9	-15	
All other nonresidential buildings....	14.6	22.3	17.9	19.8	58.1	73.0	+26	
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	146.3	117.6	150.0	176.3	486.9	557.7	+15	
Northeast								
All building construction ²	407.6	266.9	309.7	452.9	1,268.0	1,243.8	-2	
New dwelling units ⁴	264.7	145.0	195.7	234.9	778.8	690.5	-11	
New nonresidential building.....	107.5	96.2	80.9	174.7	374.1	429.2	+15	
Commercial buildings.....	41.4	29.0	21.1	48.1	108.5	122.6	+13	
Amusement buildings.....	2.2	.8	2.8	3.8	5.9	8.9	+51	
Commercial garages.....	1.6	2.4	.6	3.3	6.7	6.8	+1	
Gasoline and service stations.....	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.5	7.1	8.3	+17	
Office buildings.....	18.7	10.7	4.7	14.0	37.8	37.8	0	
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.....	16.5	12.9	10.9	24.6	51.1	60.9	+19	
Community buildings.....	41.1	34.8	33.4	81.4	157.1	187.8	+20	
Educational buildings.....	29.4	29.0	23.0	47.7	111.0	127.5	+15	
Institutional buildings.....	2.4	.6	2.2	22.3	21.1	29.8	+41	
Religious buildings.....	9.3	5.1	8.2	11.4	25.0	30.5	+22	
Garages, private residential.....	4.0	1.4	2.7	3.9	9.4	9.1	-3	
Industrial buildings.....	13.5	22.5	15.3	31.5	54.2	78.9	+46	
Public buildings.....	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.0	12.2	7.5	-39	
Public utilities buildings.....	3.0	2.7	3.1	4.1	16.4	11.2	-32	
All other nonresidential buildings....	2.2	3.4	3.3	3.7	16.2	12.1	-25	
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	33.6	23.8	30.8	39.5	106.8	114.7	+7	
North Central								
All building construction ²	591.4	331.7	500.6	617.2	1,647.3	1,733.3	+5	
New dwelling units.....	385.0	191.6	312.6	365.7	1,025.3	1,027.6	(3)	
New nonresidential building.....	163.9	108.3	147.1	196.0	491.2	548.6	+12	
Commercial buildings.....	45.6	39.1	45.5	59.1	139.4	171.1	+23	
Amusement buildings.....	5.4	2.3	2.1	3.0	10.8	8.4	-22	
Commercial garages.....	.7	.9	1.0	.9	2.2	3.4	+55	
Gasoline and service stations.....	4.9	2.5	2.9	4.3	12.9	12.4	-4	
Office buildings.....	10.1	10.7	14.7	18.6	28.8	51.3	+78	
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.....	24.4	22.7	24.8	32.2	84.8	95.5	+13	
Community buildings.....	52.0	36.5	45.7	71.3	176.1	189.6	+8	
Educational buildings.....	37.1	25.7	31.2	49.8	117.3	132.2	+13	
Institutional buildings.....	3.5	2.7	4.4	6.3	24.9	18.5	-26	
Religious buildings.....	11.4	8.1	10.1	15.2	34.0	38.9	+14	
Garages, private residential.....	11.0	1.8	5.6	13.0	19.8	22.1	+12	
Industrial buildings.....	26.6	18.9	29.4	35.1	81.8	106.9	+31	
Public buildings.....	12.8	5.7	3.0	4.3	34.0	17.6	-48	
Public utilities buildings.....	13.5	4.6	13.7	9.1	33.4	29.8	-11	
All other nonresidential buildings....	2.4	1.9	4.2	4.2	6.7	11.6	+73	
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	39.3	29.2	38.7	51.1	123.9	146.8	+18	

See footnotes at end of table.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region¹--Continued

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, 1st 4 months 1955-56	
	1955		1956		First 4 months			
	Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1955	1956		
South								
All building construction ²	412.2	353.1	410.5	395.4	1,620.4	1,488.7	-8	
New dwelling units ⁴	253.0	197.5	235.3	230.9	973.8	838.1	-14	
New nonresidential building.....	110.4	121.6	130.6	117.3	480.9	486.9	+1	
Commercial buildings.....	39.1	48.5	50.3	53.2	158.6	206.1	+30	
Amusement buildings.....	1.6	1.5	1.2	4.9	12.7	8.7	-31	
Commercial garages.....	1.0	.3	1.6	1.3	4.2	3.9	-7	
Gasoline and service stations.....	3.4	4.0	4.7	5.0	14.1	17.7	+26	
Office buildings.....	8.2	21.5	11.9	18.2	40.4	77.3	+91	
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.....	24.9	21.1	30.8	23.8	87.2	98.5	+13	
Community buildings.....	40.9	46.7	46.3	35.6	169.2	163.5	-3	
Educational buildings.....	18.0	25.7	30.4	18.7	94.9	97.5	+3	
Institutional buildings.....	12.6	10.1	4.0	3.6	36.5	21.3	-42	
Religious buildings.....	10.4	10.9	12.0	13.3	37.9	44.7	+18	
Garages, private residential.....	1.8	1.3	2.0	2.0	6.0	6.5	+8	
Industrial buildings.....	11.2	17.3	16.2	15.1	44.0	57.1	+30	
Public buildings.....	4.9	2.0	6.5	3.5	48.7	17.0	-65	
Public utilities buildings.....	8.1	3.6	6.2	5.2	37.7	25.6	-32	
All other nonresidential buildings.....	4.5	2.3	3.1	2.7	16.7	11.0	-34	
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	39.3	32.8	39.6	43.3	140.4	151.8	+8	
West								
All building construction ²	430.8	347.4	439.5	396.2	1,480.3	1,535.4	+4	
New dwelling units ⁴	297.8	206.8	256.1	227.7	1,014.4	878.5	-13	
New nonresidential building.....	96.6	104.4	138.8	123.3	332.8	498.5	+50	
Commercial buildings.....	30.4	28.8	40.8	45.6	121.5	146.0	+20	
Amusement buildings.....	1.0	1.1	.8	2.1	5.6	7.0	+25	
Commercial garages.....	.8	.6	.6	.8	1.8	3.1	+72	
Gasoline and service stations.....	3.0	2.4	3.0	2.3	8.9	9.2	+3	
Office buildings.....	7.8	8.2	11.2	11.9	32.5	43.2	+33	
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.....	17.9	16.4	25.3	28.4	72.7	83.4	+15	
Community buildings.....	31.2	36.0	32.1	33.2	103.0	142.7	+39	
Educational buildings.....	24.4	30.5	23.5	23.1	79.5	108.8	+37	
Institutional buildings.....	1.8	.6	4.1	2.8	7.8	12.1	+55	
Religious buildings.....	5.0	4.8	4.5	7.3	15.7	21.7	+38	
Garages, private residential.....	2.8	2.0	2.7	2.9	8.9	9.7	+9	
Industrial buildings.....	14.7	18.6	43.8	19.7	53.2	120.1	+126	
Public buildings.....	5.1	.9	8.4	6.6	16.5	24.6	+49	
Public utilities buildings.....	6.8	3.5	3.6	6.2	11.2	17.3	+54	
All other nonresidential buildings.....	5.5	14.7	7.4	9.2	18.6	38.3	+106	
Additions, alterations, and repairs.....	34.2	31.9	41.0	42.5	115.8	144.6	+25	

Source: Department of Labor. ¹Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. ²Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. ³Change of less than one-half of 1 percent. ⁴Housekeeping only.

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Number of Nonresidential Buildings, by Type of Building

Type of building	1955			1956				1954	1955
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.
Amusement buildings.....	129	193	92	105	143	185	279	254	249
Commercial garages.....	233	192	143	128	124	216	197	239	195
Educational buildings.....	350	323	342	388	396	463	423	516	538
Garages, private residential.....	23,170	14,341	6,882	6,758	7,214	14,225	22,572	19,811	23,727
Gasoline and service stations.....	833	682	660	643	757	842	930	866	972
Industrial buildings.....	1,256	1,184	938	1,080	1,091	1,340	1,550	876	1,290
Institutional buildings.....	98	77	49	62	52	78	84	92	76
Office buildings.....	566	521	434	512	582	714	740	480	632
Religious buildings.....	447	416	301	315	361	470	598	467	498
Stores & other mercantile bldgs.	2,799	2,380	2,056	2,137	2,566	3,160	3,495	3,343	3,557

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 15--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region¹

(Housekeeping units only)

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation (in millions of dollars)					Number of dwelling units				
	1955		1956		First 4 months	1955		1956		First 4 months
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	1955	1956	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	1955	1956
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units..	1,200.5	999.7	1,059.2	3,792.3	3,434.7	119,438	94,132	98,062	391,269	326,132
Privately owned	1,193.1	972.6	1,050.0	3,754.0	3,380.9	118,576	91,774	97,105	387,113	320,887
1-family	1,124.5	905.9	984.1	3,488.4	3,144.4	107,524	81,090	86,432	344,075	283,792
2-4 family	31.1	30.9	29.8	106.1	101.7	4,810	4,697	4,082	17,384	15,262
5-or-more family	37.5	35.8	36.1	159.5	134.8	6,242	5,987	6,591	25,654	21,833
Publicly owned	7.4	27.2	9.2	38.3	53.8	862	2,358	957	4,156	5,245
Northeast										
All new dwelling units..	264.7	195.7	234.9	778.8	690.5	26,146	17,719	21,097	76,790	63,533
Privately owned	257.6	182.8	227.9	763.3	657.7	25,344	16,811	20,382	75,062	60,493
1-family	234.8	167.4	211.0	674.8	599.1	22,326	14,763	18,000	63,763	52,443
2-4 family	7.1	6.4	7.4	22.7	22.9	1,011	895	898	3,249	3,124
5-or-more family	15.6	9.1	9.4	65.9	35.6	2,007	1,153	1,484	8,050	4,926
Publicly owned	7.1	12.9	7.1	15.4	32.8	802	908	715	1,728	3,040
North Central										
All new dwelling units..	385.0	312.6	365.7	1,025.3	1,027.6	32,804	25,193	29,172	89,070	82,897
Privately owned	385.0	302.0	364.6	1,018.8	1,013.7	32,804	24,131	29,012	88,410	81,434
1-family	372.0	289.5	352.0	975.1	970.6	31,178	22,632	27,545	82,869	76,577
2-4 family	9.2	8.8	9.4	26.8	28.5	1,053	943	954	3,110	2,979
5-or-more family	3.8	3.6	3.2	16.9	14.7	573	556	513	2,431	1,878
Publicly owned	0	10.6	1.2	6.5	13.9	0	1,062	160	660	1,463
South										
All new dwelling units..	253.0	235.3	230.9	973.8	838.1	29,224	25,072	24,636	115,842	90,512
Privately owned	253.0	232.2	229.9	970.0	831.6	29,224	24,734	24,555	115,385	89,831
1-family	243.0	218.2	218.3	920.3	781.6	26,972	22,164	22,194	104,585	80,993
2-4 family	5.6	6.0	4.6	23.2	19.5	1,200	1,175	898	5,150	3,971
5-or-more family	4.4	8.0	7.0	26.5	30.5	1,052	1,395	1,463	5,650	4,867
Publicly owned	0	3.2	1.0	3.8	6.5	0	338	81	457	681
West										
All new dwelling units..	297.8	256.1	227.7	1,014.4	878.5	31,264	26,148	23,157	109,567	89,190
Privately owned	297.5	255.6	227.7	1,001.9	877.9	31,204	26,098	23,156	108,256	89,129
1-family	274.7	230.7	202.9	918.2	793.2	27,048	21,531	18,693	92,858	73,779
2-4 family	9.2	9.7	8.3	33.4	30.8	1,546	1,684	1,332	5,875	5,188
5-or-more family	13.7	15.2	16.5	50.2	54.0	2,610	2,883	3,131	9,523	10,162
Publicly owned .....	.3	.5	(2)	12.5	.6	60	50	1	1,311	61

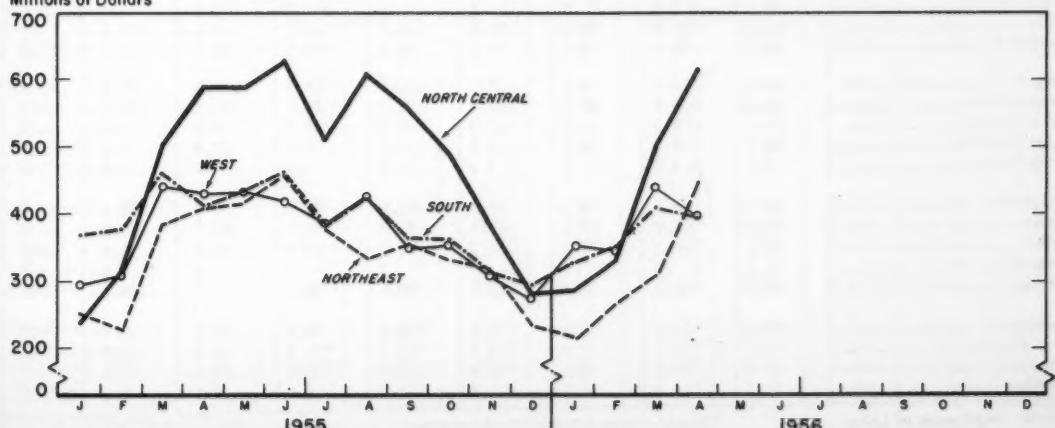
Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

² Less than \$50,000.

Building Permit Activity, By Regions

Millions of Dollars



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

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Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Millions of dollars)

State	1955			1956			First 3 months		Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1955-56
	Mar.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1955	1956	
ALL STATES	1,792.2	1,322.8	1,087.1	1,179.1	1,299.2	1,660.3	4,174.7	4,139.5	-1
Metropolitan areas	1,437.7	1,027.5	869.9	930.5	1,040.6	1,292.0	3,390.1	3,263.5	-4
Nonmetropolitan areas	354.5	295.3	217.2	248.6	258.6	368.3	784.6	876.0	+12
Alabama	15.4	12.1	10.0	13.8	14.0	15.1	39.6	43.0	+9
Arizona	17.2	12.8	15.7	11.0	18.4	15.7	44.6	45.1	+1
Arkansas	5.2	4.1	2.9	3.4	5.1	6.0	13.5	14.4	+7
California	308.5	217.9	192.5	241.7	254.7	309.9	725.6	806.2	+11
Colorado	25.9	20.7	15.9	19.1	22.6	22.8	67.0	64.6	-4
Connecticut	37.8	29.0	22.1	16.6	32.0	22.0	72.1	70.5	-2
Delaware	6.9	3.5	2.2	3.9	2.8	3.7	12.1	12.5	+3
District of Columbia	11.4	1.4	1.8	2.7	2.5	5.4	38.6	10.6	-73
Florida	71.3	57.0	51.6	61.9	70.1	70.1	189.7	202.1	+7
Georgia	23.7	30.3	12.5	18.5	19.8	24.6	72.2	62.8	-13
Idaho	3.2	3.1	2.3	1.3	1.1	3.9	5.5	6.3	+15
Illinois	118.6	81.2	59.5	77.5	86.2	137.4	231.4	301.1	+30
Indiana	39.9	32.8	19.0	19.9	27.0	30.8	78.0	77.7	(1)
Iowa	22.0	12.2	7.3	5.8	9.0	16.2	33.3	31.1	-7
Kansas	17.5	10.9	7.7	9.8	12.1	20.4	41.3	42.3	+2
Kentucky	13.4	10.8	24.9	6.4	10.6	13.0	32.5	30.1	-7
Louisiana	24.5	19.4	16.0	23.9	22.0	27.8	86.2	73.8	-14
Maine	2.6	3.1	2.5	1.8	2.0	1.4	4.8	5.2	+8
Maryland	41.1	30.6	32.1	23.5	33.5	41.6	119.0	98.6	-17
Massachusetts	45.2	29.1	24.3	24.7	25.6	36.9	89.9	87.2	-3
Michigan	92.2	71.8	59.4	52.1	67.2	89.3	209.2	208.7	(1)
Minnesota	32.4	25.9	14.3	11.2	17.1	26.2	61.3	54.5	-11
Mississippi	5.4	3.0	3.2	3.8	3.9	4.8	13.4	12.5	-7
Missouri	30.9	22.6	19.9	17.4	20.2	31.5	78.0	69.2	-11
Montana	2.9	2.1	2.3	1.2	1.2	5.6	5.0	8.0	+60
Nebraska	9.8	5.2	7.0	3.1	4.9	7.8	15.8	15.7	-1
Nevada	7.2	6.3	7.4	3.7	3.1	6.1	20.8	13.0	-38
New Hampshire	4.2	2.6	1.7	1.1	1.1	2.0	5.9	4.3	-27
New Jersey	78.8	63.7	48.7	48.7	65.1	70.1	172.0	184.0	+7
New Mexico	8.4	4.7	5.5	7.2	5.6	5.7	21.0	18.5	-12
New York	127.1	113.0	92.9	77.7	92.2	106.2	308.1	276.3	-10
North Carolina	26.0	13.0	13.5	15.1	21.1	21.3	61.5	57.9	-6
North Dakota	1.2	2.2	.5	.4	.4	.9	1.8	1.6	-11
Ohio	103.3	87.9	66.5	65.6	63.7	101.1	219.0	230.3	+5
Oklahoma	17.4	7.8	8.7	10.4	10.4	11.6	39.7	32.5	-18
Oregon	13.4	8.1	6.4	10.5	12.0	14.5	34.8	37.1	+7
Pennsylvania	85.6	70.3	40.2	40.4	45.9	68.3	196.1	154.6	-21
Rhode Island	4.7	4.5	4.0	2.7	2.9	2.5	10.2	8.0	-22
South Carolina	18.7	6.5	5.8	5.9	9.0	6.6	30.8	21.5	-30
South Dakota	2.6	1.9	.9	2.2	1.0	3.4	4.7	6.6	+40
Tennessee	19.0	14.6	14.2	16.8	12.8	19.9	52.3	49.5	-5
Texas	107.9	65.9	62.6	87.4	82.3	88.3	281.7	258.0	-8
Utah	14.6	9.2	4.9	32.2	7.1	12.0	21.8	51.4	+136
Vermont .....	.8	.7	.3	.4	.1	.3	1.2	.8	-33
Virginia	47.7	29.3	28.3	25.0	29.0	46.1	115.3	100.2	-13
Washington	38.5	21.8	20.0	23.0	20.3	40.4	99.8	83.7	-16
West Virginia	5.4	4.0	3.2	4.4	4.1	4.7	10.2	13.3	+30
Wisconsin	33.5	31.3	21.3	18.8	22.9	35.6	82.9	77.3	-7
Wyoming	1.5	.9	.7	1.3	1.2	3.0	3.5	5.5	+57

Source: Department of Labor.

¹Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

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Table 17.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Housekeeping units only)

State	1955			1956			First 3 months		Percent change, 1st. 3 mos. 1955-56
	Mar.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1955	1956	
ALL STATES	115,403	70,136	57,636	62,818	71,110	94,132	271,831	228,070	-16
Metropolitan areas	92,457	53,892	44,971	49,149	55,052	73,145	218,043	177,356	-19
Nonmetropolitan areas	22,946	16,244	12,665	13,669	16,058	20,987	53,788	50,714	-6
Alabama	1,348	701	765	1,055	858	1,131	3,483	3,044	-13
Arizona	1,453	949	1,046	976	958	1,267	3,935	3,201	-19
Arkansas	513	309	266	259	254	465	1,259	978	-22
California	23,283	12,855	11,619	14,433	16,298	18,869	55,900	49,600	-11
Colorado	2,164	1,413	1,099	1,151	1,008	1,595	5,873	3,754	-36
Connecticut	2,005	1,160	1,026	724	1,162	1,270	3,783	3,156	-17
Delaware	426	203	103	375	129	215	700	719	+3
District of Columbia	966	97	94	33	42	375	1,265	450	-64
Florida	5,167	3,840	3,793	4,644	4,979	5,027	14,735	14,650	-1
Georgia	2,096	1,179	1,020	1,433	1,538	1,627	5,381	4,598	-15
Idaho	218	113	77	61	39	133	332	233	-30
Illinois	6,838	4,054	2,555	3,326	3,654	6,725	12,479	13,705	+10
Indiana	2,040	1,084	981	962	1,004	1,626	4,166	3,592	-14
Iowa	914	673	309	281	368	827	1,600	1,476	-8
Kansas	1,097	578	453	657	719	963	2,746	2,339	-15
Kentucky	1,049	903	942	482	480	872	2,318	1,834	-21
Louisiana	1,650	1,070	825	879	772	1,077	4,164	2,728	-34
Maine	76	88	78	29	18	67	136	114	-16
Maryland	2,800	1,942	1,717	1,364	1,964	2,499	9,171	5,827	-36
Massachusetts	2,488	1,592	1,343	1,126	1,386	1,995	5,399	4,507	-17
Michigan	5,154	3,680	2,762	2,788	3,632	5,061	11,531	11,481	(1)
Minnesota	1,534	1,189	506	553	548	1,281	2,942	2,382	-19
Mississippi	336	262	206	324	282	295	962	901	-6
Missouri	1,407	869	751	931	1,037	1,450	4,438	3,418	-23
Montana	118	78	31	48	65	151	257	264	+3
Nebraska	682	367	222	202	243	589	1,168	1,034	-11
Nevada	239	467	143	209	164	491	911	864	-5
New Hampshire	161	167	114	60	67	107	290	234	-19
New Jersey	4,519	3,431	2,544	2,144	4,332	4,046	11,005	10,522	-4
New Mexico	543	299	260	218	338	385	1,758	941	-46
New York	9,187	5,200	5,207	5,262	4,636	6,378	19,302	16,284	-16
North Carolina	1,487	815	824	865	1,318	1,126	3,826	3,309	-14
North Dakota	64	63	17	22	10	40	75	72	-4
Ohio	5,080	3,422	2,215	2,580	2,828	4,455	11,222	9,863	-12
Oklahoma	1,298	463	565	525	702	706	3,089	1,933	-37
Oregon	684	365	240	412	451	680	1,753	1,543	-12
Pennsylvania	4,757	2,851	1,514	1,547	1,866	3,635	9,853	7,045	-28
Rhode Island	379	335	191	134	193	209	830	536	-35
South Carolina	519	380	291	384	440	428	1,525	1,252	-18
South Dakota	172	118	44	42	43	140	303	225	-26
Tennessee	1,481	940	689	1,115	861	1,260	4,837	3,236	-33
Texas	7,822	4,387	3,661	4,266	4,213	5,048	20,846	13,527	-35
Utah	964	586	362	436	469	753	1,401	1,658	+18
Vermont	25	27	19	18	8	12	46	38	-17
Virginia	3,466	1,791	1,918	1,417	2,206	2,613	8,405	6,241	-26
Washington	2,315	1,008	1,073	967	1,050	1,668	5,951	3,685	-38
West Virginia	349	208	163	147	194	308	652	649	(1)
Wisconsin	1,979	1,514	949	883	1,219	2,036	3,596	4,138	+15
Wyoming	91	51	44	69	65	156	232	290	+25

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

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Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Millions of dollars)

Metropolitan area	1955			1956			First 3 months		Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1955-56
	Mar.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1955	1956	
Atlanta, Ga.	15.6	10.4	7.3	11.2	11.0	12.0	46.4	34.2	-26
Baltimore, Md.	22.3	18.5	15.5	14.0	19.0	21.7	69.0	54.7	-21
Birmingham, Ala.	5.9	6.4	5.2	5.9	4.7	8.0	17.2	18.6	+ 8
Boston, Mass.	21.7	15.0	14.1	12.1	15.5	17.7	48.6	45.2	- 7
Buffalo, N. Y.	14.8	11.2	11.4	7.8	6.5	23.3	29.6	37.5	+27
Chicago, Ill.	101.6	72.4	54.7	73.3	78.2	118.6	200.8	270.1	+35
Cleveland, Ohio	33.2	27.4	16.0	20.0	22.8	38.3	67.8	81.1	+20
Columbus, Ohio	10.7	10.4	10.8	10.8	7.3	9.1	26.4	27.2	+ 3
Denver, Colo.	15.9	13.2	9.9	11.8	16.7	14.4	44.2	42.9	- 3
Detroit, Mich.	62.5	45.8	41.8	37.6	49.7	61.1	146.3	148.5	+ 2
Indianapolis, Ind.	9.5	5.4	7.0	4.5	10.4	7.7	20.7	22.6	+ 9
Los Angeles, Calif.	157.6	88.9	95.2	140.1	128.4	154.3	373.4	422.8	+13
Memphis, Tenn.	6.7	5.6	2.9	7.6	3.9	6.4	21.3	17.9	-16
Miami, Fla.	28.3	16.9	17.2	18.7	16.6	23.1	73.9	58.4	-21
Milwaukee, Wis.	14.8	13.6	11.6	8.9	11.1	16.2	41.6	36.3	-13
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	145.1	120.1	91.5	92.9	110.1	110.3	342.9	313.4	- 9
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	5.2	4.9	3.9	3.1	3.9	5.5	21.4	12.7	-41
Phoenix, Ariz.	12.2	8.1	9.5	7.4	12.8	10.7	31.6	30.8	- 3
Rochester, N. Y.	5.9	8.4	4.7	2.7	3.0	4.6	18.9	10.2	-46
Salt Lake City, Utah	7.7	4.8	2.2	4.3	4.6	6.3	12.3	15.2	+24
San Diego, Calif.	12.7	13.5	12.2	9.4	13.4	22.4	40.4	45.2	+12
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	53.0	41.1	33.3	30.1	38.5	45.3	112.5	113.9	+ 1
Seattle, Wash.	17.9	10.9	8.6	9.3	10.2	13.6	47.5	33.1	-30
Washington, D. C.	38.1	16.1	22.6	18.9	21.1	27.8	104.7	67.8	-35

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Housekeeping only)

Metropolitan area	1955			1956			First 3 months		Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1955-56
	Mar.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1955	1956	
Atlanta, Ga.	1,276	643	552	747	861	980	3,146	2,588	-18
Baltimore, Md.	1,382	1,219	985	625	1,091	1,471	5,090	3,187	-37
Birmingham, Ala.	509	285	296	394	300	447	1,296	1,141	-12
Boston, Mass.	1,136	658	677	498	745	836	2,599	2,079	-20
Buffalo, N. Y.	1,095	520	393	417	376	1,517	2,087	2,310	+11
Chicago, Ill.	6,090	3,518	2,281	3,010	3,275	5,863	11,175	12,148	+ 9
Cleveland, Ohio	1,365	868	563	722	806	1,188	3,101	2,716	-12
Columbus, Ohio	433	348	393	560	347	491	1,457	1,398	- 4
Denver, Colo.	1,542	873	688	776	656	1,068	4,333	2,500	-42
Detroit, Mich.	3,256	2,515	1,826	1,831	2,682	3,669	7,942	8,182	+ 3
Indianapolis, Ind.	576	341	396	222	284	407	1,153	913	-21
Los Angeles, Calif.	11,618	4,632	5,775	9,094	8,536	8,916	28,115	26,546	- 6
Memphis, Tenn.	496	409	202	476	295	415	2,381	1,186	-50
Miami, Fla.	1,817	1,021	933	1,404	1,209	1,677	4,872	4,290	-12
Milwaukee, Wis.	812	589	565	460	606	921	1,713	1,987	+16
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	9,565	5,278	5,498	5,365	5,545	6,201	21,392	17,119	-20
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	402	334	282	220	270	338	2,144	833	-61
Phoenix, Ariz.	1,070	720	774	653	699	922	3,039	2,274	-25
Rochester, N. Y.	482	291	201	171	176	257	899	604	-33
Salt Lake City, Utah	555	386	66	252	359	374	840	985	+17
San Diego, Calif.	951	897	783	691	1,115	1,336	2,968	3,142	+ 6
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	3,620	1,946	1,511	1,217	1,882	2,829	7,863	5,928	-25
Seattle, Wash.	1,247	519	462	485	637	747	2,781	1,869	-33
Washington, D. C.	2,807	953	1,103	910	1,137	1,544	5,918	3,591	-39

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 20.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Type of Building Construction

March 1956 (Thousands of dollars)

Type of building construction	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction ¹	11,977	21,690	7,992	17,654	23,267	118,563	38,272	9,119
New dwelling units ²	7,871	16,525	4,031	9,460	19,213	79,853	18,281	6,954
New nonresidential building	2,631	3,303	2,968	6,197	2,939	31,908	17,522	1,321
Commercial buildings	1,445	1,436	969	1,427	651	11,425	6,324	955
Amusement buildings	18	126	0	70	32	210	7	300
Commercial garages	8	82	10	11	0	48	61	189
Gasoline and service stations	188	345	65	234	117	236	96	148
Office buildings	201	249	34	380	165	5,686	2,279	81
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	1,030	634	860	733	337	5,245	3,881	238
Community buildings	723	642	1,408	1,575	698	7,600	956	65
Educational buildings	197	629	671	1,400	245	5,094	956	0
Institutional buildings	0	0	350	0	171	365	0	0
Religious buildings	526	13	387	175	282	2,141	0	65
Garages, private residential	30	92	30	171	100	1,413	287	177
Industrial buildings	367	557	362	1,338	542	7,337	5,922	0
Public buildings	0	266	0	50	0	0	0	107
Public utilities buildings	35	179	2	1,570	0	2,356	4,001	3
All other nonresidential buildings	31	131	197	67	948	1,777	32	15
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,364	1,862	992	1,992	814	6,158	2,313	844
	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York-Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction ¹	14,440	61,140	7,724	154,342	6,426	23,149	16,239	110,256
New dwelling units ²	9,761	45,352	5,079	89,064	2,690	14,296	11,821	69,523
New nonresidential building	3,431	11,558	2,029	50,438	2,551	4,916	3,275	30,700
Commercial buildings	1,324	3,291	551	8,858	156	1,636	544	5,632
Amusement buildings	0	81	90	18	0	78	13	117
Commercial garages	5	57	10	193	0	2	100	149
Gasoline and service stations	92	324	112	251	30	197	111	398
Office buildings	788	384	27	1,860	35	221	121	1,317
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	439	2,445	313	6,536	91	1,138	200	3,650
Community buildings	870	4,228	440	10,585	641	358	1,256	14,039
Educational buildings	719	3,632	400	7,897	268	181	350	10,539
Institutional buildings	0	55	0	2,253	0	159	40	1,050
Religious buildings	151	541	40	435	373	18	866	2,451
Garages, private residential	199	775	118	914	111	93	221	1,033
Industrial buildings	266	2,808	920	23,114	1,519	409	901	6,899
Public buildings	203	151	0	2,799	19	28	0	1,255
Public utilities buildings	500	47	0	246	0	2,178	325	980
All other nonresidential buildings	68	257	0	3,922	105	214	29	902
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,229	3,842	615	14,309	1,185	2,273	1,144	9,775
	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction ¹	5,548	10,678	4,577	6,301	22,405	45,256	13,597	27,846
New dwelling units ²	2,873	6,109	3,251	4,661	13,514	29,190	9,139	17,894
New nonresidential building	2,301	3,608	768	812	6,173	10,219	2,639	7,159
Commercial buildings	913	2,581	180	393	1,218	3,321	724	2,085
Amusement buildings	0	0	43	0	4	68	5	12
Commercial garages	15	0	82	2	6	81	7	36
Gasoline and service stations	31	302	22	134	7	216	198	81
Office buildings	34	687	0	17	715	1,104	275	595
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	832	1,591	33	240	486	1,852	241	1,362
Community buildings	540	514	0	151	747	1,275	885	4,430
Educational buildings	17	378	0	0	654	922	860	3,101
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	151	8	0	0	0
Religious buildings	523	137	0	0	85	353	25	1,329
Garages, private residential	62	50	59	66	218	206	60	62
Industrial buildings	0	411	234	105	605	4,301	871	104
Public buildings	755	0	0	0	2,808	183	0	197
Public utilities buildings	0	0	170	0	281	152	17	267
All other nonresidential buildings	32	53	125	97	296	780	82	14
Additions, alterations, and repairs	373	609	558	818	2,687	5,201	1,743	2,678

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately.² Housekeeping only.

Part IV--Contract Awards

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction¹

Ownership and type of construction ²	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, 1st. 4 mos. 1955-56	
	1955			1956			First 4 months				
	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1955	1956		
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION.....	784.2	660.4	931.5	807.4	647.1	869.2	908.5	2,590.8	3,232.2	+25	
FEDERALLY OWNED.....	125.9	107.2	180.0	114.2	118.6	169.6	196.6	428.5	599.0	+40	
Residential building.....	.1	2.6	33.5	3.0	12.7	7.6	7.1	8.4	30.4	+262	
Nonresidential building.....	79.4	39.5	76.6	48.0	38.8	79.2	101.2	254.4	267.2	+5	
Educational.....	1.2	1.4	10.9	.2	(3)	2.9	2.9	1.6	6.0	+275	
Hospital and institutional.....	6.7	.3	.7	5.5	.3	4.5	3.4	19.7	13.7	-30	
Administrative and general.....	3.5	4.1	6.1	2.8	4.1	8.2	6.4	13.8	21.5	+56	
Other nonresidential building.....	68.0	33.7	58.9	39.5	34.4	63.6	88.5	219.3	226.0	+3	
Airfield building.....	10.6	4.3	4.9	11.9	7.2	8.4	4.2	47.8	31.7	-34	
Industrial.....	22.4	15.0	28.0	9.6	6.1	33.1	27.2	88.3	76.0	-14	
Troop housing.....	11.0	3.5	6.3	10.9	9.0	1.6	8.1	21.6	29.6	+37	
Warehouses.....	6.4	2.3	4.7	1.2	1.3	2.5	32.6	21.7	37.6	+73	
All other.....	17.6	8.6	15.0	5.9	10.8	18.0	16.4	39.9	51.1	+28	
Airfields.....	18.6	15.3	24.6	15.3	17.1	7.5	17.2	67.7	57.1	-16	
Conservation and development.....	14.7	24.6	23.9	41.1	29.2	66.9	51.1	53.8	188.3	+250	
Highway.....	5.6	2.4	3.8	2.2	8.4	2.8	4.7	17.3	18.1	+5	
Electric power.....	3.2	3.5	8.9	2.0	5.5	2.1	5.0	11.9	14.6	+23	
All other federally owned.....	4.3	19.3	8.7	2.6	6.9	3.5	10.3	15.0	23.3	+55	
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED.....	658.3	553.2	751.5	693.2	528.5	699.6	711.9	2,162.3	2,633.2	+22	
Residential building.....	14.5	14.3	11.7	10.5	22.0	38.8	18.3	55.5	89.6	+61	
Nonresidential building.....	246.6	192.7	286.7	254.9	186.0	279.4	296.8	915.5	1,017.1	+11	
Educational.....	199.7	139.3	236.1	192.8	145.1	215.4	204.1	675.4	757.4	+12	
Hospital and institutional.....	15.7	10.5	13.4	35.5	9.4	12.4	25.0	58.8	82.3	+40	
Administrative and general.....	14.0	13.8	23.2	10.3	17.4	32.6	30.6	81.6	90.9	+11	
Other nonresidential building.....	17.2	29.1	14.0	16.3	14.1	19.0	37.1	99.7	86.5	-13	
Highway.....	268.7	229.9	320.7	246.3	234.3	279.0	265.3	799.4	1,024.9	+28	
Sewerage systems.....	46.3	24.7	53.2	114.6	30.5	42.9	51.3	154.2	239.3	+55	
Water supply facilities.....	26.8	58.8	35.2	29.1	26.7	30.6	38.3	106.6	124.7	+17	
Utilities.....	43.8	26.2	32.4	29.1	20.0	11.2	23.1	93.7	83.4	-11	
Electric power.....	34.2	18.5	11.9	15.6	5.7	2.6	12.4	44.4	36.1	-19	
Other utilities.....	9.6	7.7	20.5	13.7	14.3	8.6	10.7	49.3	47.3	-4	
All other State and locally owned....	11.6	6.6	11.6	8.7	9.0	17.7	18.8	37.4	54.2	+45	

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes major force-account projects started principally by TVA and State highway departments. ² Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. ³ Less than \$50,000.

Table 22.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility¹

Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value (in millions of dollars)									Percent change, 1st. 4 mos. 1955-56	
	1955			1956			First 4 months				
	Apr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	1955	1956		
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION.....	274.3	232.3	324.5	248.5	242.7	281.8	270.1	816.7	1,043.1	+28	
FEDERALLY OWNED.....	5.6	2.4	3.8	2.2	8.4	2.8	4.7	17.3	18.1	+5	
STATE OWNED.....	236.5	211.4	301.5	228.0	219.1	254.8	219.1	717.5	921.0	+28	
Federally aided projects:											
Total value.....	112.1	111.7	115.4	154.7	105.4	127.9	127.0	325.4	515.0	+58	
Federal funds.....	61.1	59.8	62.2	77.2	53.8	70.3	64.3	175.5	265.6	+51	
Independent State projects:											
Total value.....	124.4	99.8	186.1	73.2	113.6	127.0	92.0	392.1	405.8	+4	
Toll facilities.....	69.8	40.7	141.5	37.8	67.3	76.4	17.5	235.2	199.0	-15	
LOCALLY OWNED ²	32.2	18.5	19.2	18.3	15.2	24.2	46.3	81.9	104.0	+27	

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. ¹ Includes force-account work started on Federal and State projects. ² By municipalities and counties.

Chart 7

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

Millions of Dollars

OWNERSHIP

1,000

500

0

Millions of Dollars

TOTAL

STATE AND LOCAL

FEDERAL

Millions of Dollars

SELECTED TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION

400

300

200

100

0

Millions of Dollars

HIGHWAY

EDUCATIONAL

SEWER AND WATER

HOSPITAL

J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D

1954

1955

1956

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR.

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Table 23.—Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value (in millions of dollars)			Percent change		
	May 1956	April 1956	First 5 months, 1956	May 1956 from—		First 5 months, 1955-56
				April 1956	May 1955	
TOTAL	2,480	2,422	11,001	+ 2	+13	+13
Building construction	1,949	1,966	8,686	- 1	+12	+12
Residential	1,129	1,144	4,873	- 1	+12	+9
Nonresidential	820	822	3,813	(1)	+13	+16
Engineering	531	456	2,315	+17	+19	+20
Public works	365	367	1,736	- 1	+26	+31
Utilities	166	89	579	+87	+5	- 4

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

¹ Change of less than one-half of

percent.

Part V--Costs

Table 24.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)										Percent change, May 1955-56
	1955		1956			1953		1954		1955	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	May	May	May	May	
American Appraisal Company	131.7	132.3	132.6	133.0	133.6	134.3	121.7	124.7	128.1	+ 5	
Associated General Contractors	137.9	139.8	139.8	139.8	139.8	141.0	124.3	130.5	134.5	+ 5	
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):											
Residences	126.0	126.4	127.5	128.0	128.9	129.8	120.8	119.5	123.3	+ 5	
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	133.3	133.9	134.4	134.8	135.7	136.9	124.8	126.3	129.5	+ 6	
Commercial and factory buildings	134.8	135.3	135.9	136.4	137.3	138.4	125.1	127.0	130.6	+ 6	
Engineering News-Record (as of June 1):											
Building	142.1	142.9	142.9	143.6	144.1	144.5	126.0	130.1	137.5	+ 5	
Construction	149.3	150.2	150.1	150.8	152.0	152.8	131.1	137.3	144.8	+ 6	
Department of Commerce composite ¹	126.6	127.1	127.9	128.6	129.3	130.2	121.3	120.7	123.4	+ 6	

Source: Department of Commerce.

¹ A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current relative importance of each type.

Table 25.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)										Percent change, May 1955-56
	1955		1956			1953		1954		1955	
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	May	May	May	May	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS ¹	128.3	129.4	129.6	130.5	131.3	130.9	120.2	118.6	124.1	+ 6	
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:											
Lumber	126.4	127.6	128.2	129.9	130.6	130.5	121.0	115.0	124.2	+ 5	
Douglas fir	130.8	133.9	133.2	135.3	136.0	135.6	119.9	114.4	130.5	+ 4	
Southern pine	116.8	117.0	117.6	120.7	120.6	120.2	116.5	107.5	114.0	+ 5	
Other softwoods	137.4	137.7	139.2	139.7	140.8	140.6	135.0	129.7	137.3	+ 2	
Hardwoods	123.5	124.5	125.4	126.9	128.2	128.4	115.9	112.0	117.9	+ 9	
Millwork	128.8	129.2	129.1	128.9	128.9	129.1	132.0	130.8	129.8	(2)	
Plywood	105.7	107.5	107.5	107.5	106.9	104.4	112.4	101.4	105.6	- 1	
Softwood	108.4	112.1	112.1	112.1	111.4	106.4	115.4	102.5	110.5	- 4	
Hardwood	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	104.4	104.4	110.3	100.7	102.6	+ 2	
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:											
Prepared paint	115.8	117.0	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	110.8	112.8	114.8	+ 4	
Paint materials	97.4	98.6	100.4	101.4	101.6	101.2	95.1	95.3	97.0	+ 4	
METAL PRODUCTS:											
Structural shapes	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	133.8	141.3	146.2	+ 8	
Hardware, finish	143.9	143.4	143.4	145.8	147.2	147.2	133.6	135.8	139.9	+ 5	
Plumbing equipment	133.4	133.1	133.1	133.1	133.9	134.8	113.8	118.2	123.3	+ 9	
Enameled iron fixtures	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	125.3	125.3	123.0	129.2	129.3	- 3	
Vitreous china fixtures	124.4	124.1	124.1	124.1	124.2	124.2	103.2	111.7	117.3	+ 6	
Brass fittings	138.1	138.1	138.1	138.1	141.9	143.6	113.3	115.9	123.4	+ 16	
Heating equipment	117.1	117.3	117.1	117.1	117.3	117.2	114.4	113.9	113.5	+ 3	
Furnaces	123.5	123.8	123.8	123.8	123.8	123.8	117.4	120.6	119.8	+ 3	
Water heaters	108.9	108.9	108.0	107.1	107.1	106.6	111.7	107.9	107.4	- 1	
Metal sash	146.3	146.3	146.3	146.3	146.3	140.9	117.7	127.6	133.2	+ 6	
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:											
Glass, plate	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	120.9	132.0	132.0	+ 4	
Glass, window	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.8	118.0	131.3	135.1	+ 3	
Concrete ingredients	126.0	129.7	129.9	130.0	130.0	130.1	117.9	120.0	124.7	+ 4	
Portland cement	132.3	138.5	138.5	138.6	138.9	138.9	123.8	124.9	131.5	+ 6	
Concrete products	120.2	121.1	121.1	121.1	121.7	121.7	115.5	117.3	118.2	+ 3	
Structural clay products	144.6	145.3	145.6	145.9	146.0	146.1	124.7	132.0	137.0	+ 7	
Gypsum products	122.1	127.1	127.1	127.1	127.1	127.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	+ 4	
Asphalt roofing	101.0	99.6	99.6	106.5	111.9	111.9	106.0	96.3	105.8	+ 6	
Insulation materials	105.8	105.7	105.5	101.9	101.9	100.7	107.3	110.1	106.7	- 6	
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:											
Building board	133.3	133.3	133.3	133.3	138.1	138.2	123.0	127.9	129.7	+ 7	
Kitchen cabinets, metal	136.5	136.5	135.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	127.2	127.6	128.2	+ 7	

Source: Department of Labor.

¹ Includes items not shown separately.² Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1956		1955
		Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2" x 4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	\$78.211	\$78.351	\$72.324
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1" x 8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	71.450	71.373	65.423
Timbers, No. 1, 8" x 8" to 12" x 12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	86.331	85.856	73.288
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2" x 4" x 16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	85.765	85.520	81.313
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1" x 6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	83.826	84.079	77.256
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1" x 8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	83.500	82.310	77.200
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	200.489	199.043	180.893
Maple flooring, 2d grade, 25/32" x 2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	200.826	191.968	173.134
Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	60.000	58.000	55.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	55.000	54.000	47.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6" x 6'8" x 1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	Each	4.226	4.326	4.829
Door frame, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16" x 2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	Each	9.372	9.372	9.326
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	Each	1.681	1.681	1.656
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4" x 48" x 96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	84.279	84.279	80.807
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16" x 48" x 96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	64.936	66.177	70.660
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2" x 48" x 96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	57.500	55.500	54.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	Gallon	2.510	2.510	2.399
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.874	3.874	3.706
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.802	4.802	4.628
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.116	3.116	2.945
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.477	4.477	4.348
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6" x 4" x 1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	4.867	4.867	4.517
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	5.313	5.313	4.963
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	7.770	7.770	7.220
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	16.997	16.997	15.000
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	21.137	21.137	18.605
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	100 lb. kg	8.595	8.603	7.815
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	Ton	(111.3)	(111.3)	(111.3)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64" x 48" x 144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	Pound	\$0.408	\$0.393	\$0.377
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	Foot	.350	.343	.281
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	M ft.	23.120	19.040	13.770
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18 x 14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	Linear ft. roll	30.780	30.870	24.380
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	55.113	55.113	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20" x 18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	13.497	13.497	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	24.682	24.661	23.242
Sink, enameled steel, 32" x 21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	16.634	16.634	16.634

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Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1956		1955
		Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	\$190.342	\$190.342	\$186.618
Convector, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Sq. ft., incl. enclosure	.451	.441	.433
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	239.662	239.662	247.732
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Each	165.998	165.998	157.008
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	57.217	57.217	62.070
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	Each	100.961	100.961	101.958
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	39.092	39.092	38.350
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.221	1.224	1.156
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.503	1.506	1.396
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	Ton	1.609	1.613	1.585
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	Each	.179	.178	.174
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 3'-8" lengths, delivered	Foot	3.931	3.910	3.938
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	30.470	30.398	28.654
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	Thousand	39.248	38.915	37.717
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	Thousand	134.556	134.556	126.727
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	Foot	.520	.520	.483
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	24.990	24.990	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	32.830	32.830	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Ton	15.928	15.928	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	Square	5.595	5.337	4.927
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	Ton	20.194	20.194	19.444
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	Square	10.824	10.653	9.697

Source: Department of Labor.

HOUSING VACANCY RATES, FIRST QUARTER 1956

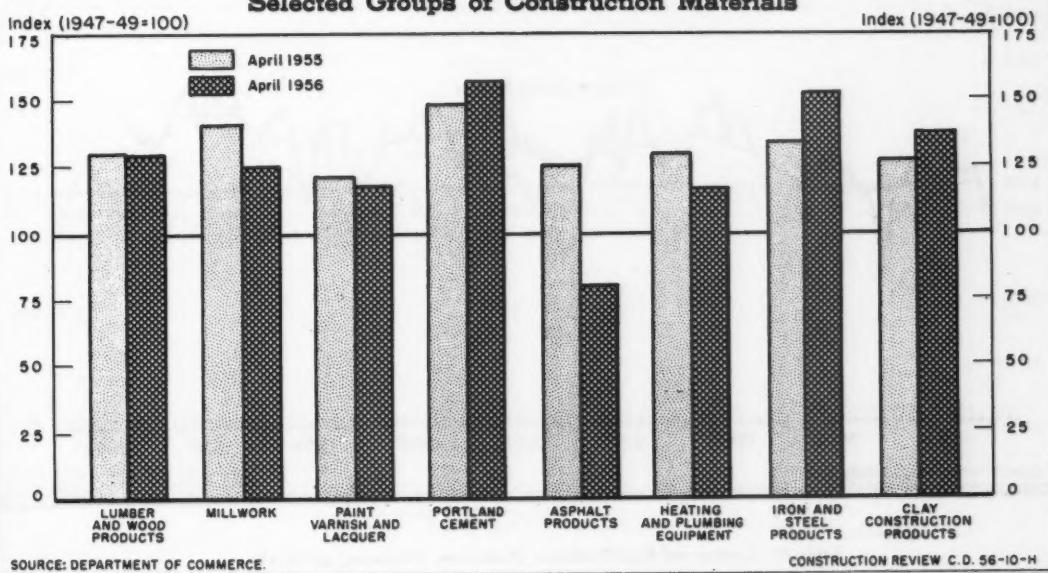
The housing vacancy rate in the first quarter of 1956 remained the same as in the preceding quarter, or 2.7 percent of all dwelling units in the United States, according to the latest survey of the Bureau of the Census. Of the units available for occupancy, 2.2 percent were for rent, and 0.5 percent were for sale.

Vacancy or occupancy class	Percent distribution			
	1st qtr. 1956	4th qtr. 1955	3rd qtr. 1955	2d qtr. 1955
Total dwelling units	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Vacant dwelling units:				
Available for occupancy ¹	2.7	2.7	2.3	2.3
For rent ²	2.2	2.2	1.8	1.8
For sale .....	.5	.5	.5	.5
Rented or sold, awaiting occupancy ¹ .....	.4	.4	.5	.5
Held off market ¹	2.2	2.0	1.6	1.5
Dilapidated	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Seasonal dwelling units	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6
Occupied dwelling units	91.2	91.3	91.9	91.9

Source: Housing and Construction Report, Series H-111, No. 4, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce. Price 10 cents a copy. ¹Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units. ²Comprises vacant units offered for rent, as well as those being offered for rent or for sale.

Chart 8

Indexes of Materials Output
Selected Groups of Construction Materials



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

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Table 27.—Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Materials group	Monthly Indexes												
	1955											1956	
	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Lumber and wood products ...	129.9	136.6	142.3	119.6	146.0	139.7	135.3	124.6	117.6	121.0	119.5	129.0	129.3
Millwork	140.3	128.7	135.9	108.8	141.7	143.1	134.3	128.3	103.9	107.7	122.9	128.0	125.5
Paint, varnish, and lacquer	121.6	126.6	138.8	111.8	123.4	118.1	107.1	105.9	100.3	112.3	114.4	120.4	117.9
Portland cement	148.5	161.7	160.1	163.5	166.7	161.1	167.0	148.9	138.0	128.2	117.1	139.9	156.3
Asphalt products	125.1	121.3	146.8	107.0	146.8	126.2	122.4	110.1	71.2	68.5	100.3	130.0	80.8
Heating and plumbing equipment	129.5	130.3	143.8	116.9	180.6	183.2	164.0	139.7	107.7	126.8	118.0	133.3	117.3
Iron and steel products	133.5	136.2	154.2	127.6	144.1	149.5	145.0	134.9	132.3	136.4	143.4	155.7	152.2
Clay construction products	127.1	136.5	147.1	135.6	150.1	151.3	148.0	146.0	136.4	136.1	129.2	146.4	137.6
Quarterly Indexes													
1954			1955						1956				
Fourth quarter			First quarter			Second quarter			Third quarter		Fourth quarter		First quarter
Gypsum products	162.2			168.9			173.7			180.3		185.4	
Plumbing fixtures	123.1			133.5			141.3			130.4		142.2	

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following.

Chart 9.

Lumber and Wood Products

Index of Production

Index (1947-49=100)

Index (1947-49=100)

200

200

150

150

100

100

50

50

0

0

12-MONTH MOVING AVERAGE

1948 1949 1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Table 28.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Softwood lumber (Million board feet)			Hardwood flooring (Thousand board feet)			Douglas fir plywood (Million square feet)	Insulating boards (Tons)	Hardboard (Tons)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks*	Production	Shipments	Stocks*	Production	Production	Production
1947-49 average	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1953	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	950,889	423,418
1954	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,013,340	493,258
1955	31,563	31,432	5,429	1,268,104	1,258,914	70,045	4,901	1,119,213	536,845
12 months ending:									
January 1956	31,559	31,348	--	1,271,627	1,254,986	--	4,956	1,116,384	542,935
February 1956	31,528	31,343	--	1,275,095	1,253,202	--	5,010	1,123,520	547,377
March 1956	31,277	31,117	--	1,267,518	1,241,603	--	5,036	1,131,569	547,786
April 1956	31,189	30,983	--	1,261,013	1,228,413	--	5,070	1,146,986	550,602
1955: April	2,629	2,754	5,121	104,293	108,160	55,183	413	87,850	44,564
May	2,802	2,827	5,107	109,546	109,787	55,200	409	92,160	46,759
June	2,946	3,047	5,007	116,072	116,682	53,454	429	81,597	45,579
July	2,464	2,592	4,869	103,278	104,894	51,788	321	91,602	44,170
August	3,038	2,962	4,952	114,156	113,495	52,424	415	102,681	46,482
September	2,871	2,756	5,066	109,338	110,585	50,483	423	95,722	44,438
October	2,728	2,605	6,665	105,945	104,909	51,644	428	101,344	46,860
November	2,442	2,360	5,254	106,217	98,949	58,812	423	93,644	45,836
December	2,280	2,106	5,429	97,765	86,532	70,045	414	93,748	42,426
1956: January	2,305	2,227	5,495	100,999	94,957	76,187	448	91,924	49,731
February	2,289	2,288	5,486	97,393	93,162	81,877	443	93,920	44,164
March	2,483	2,593	5,380	102,516	99,491	88,249	470	105,377	46,777
April	2,541	2,620	5,311	97,788	94,970	83,056	447	103,267	47,380
	Percent change								
April, 1955-56	-3	-5	+4	-6	-12	+51	+8	+18	+6
First 4 mos. 1955-56	-4	-4	--	-2	-7	--	+10	+8	+8

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census. * As of end of period.

Chart 10.

Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Index of Production for Trade Sales

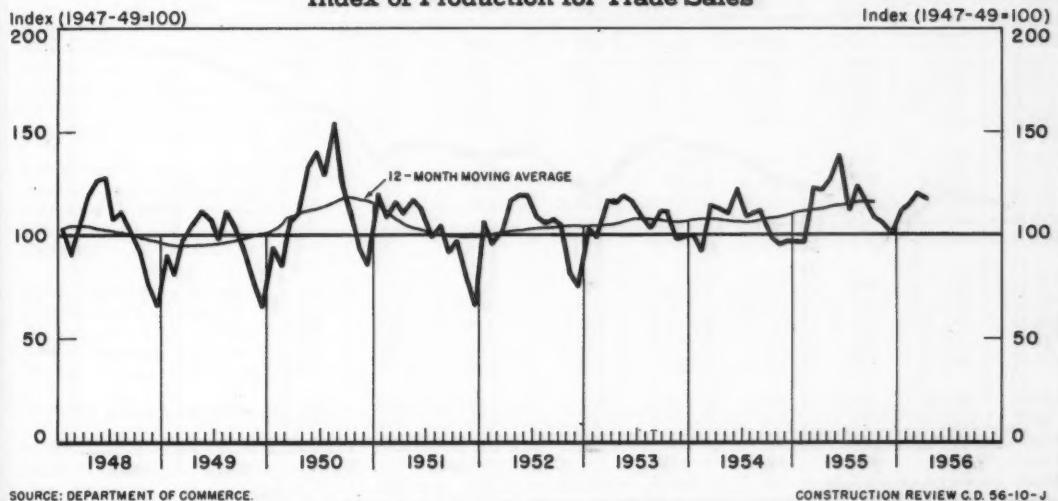


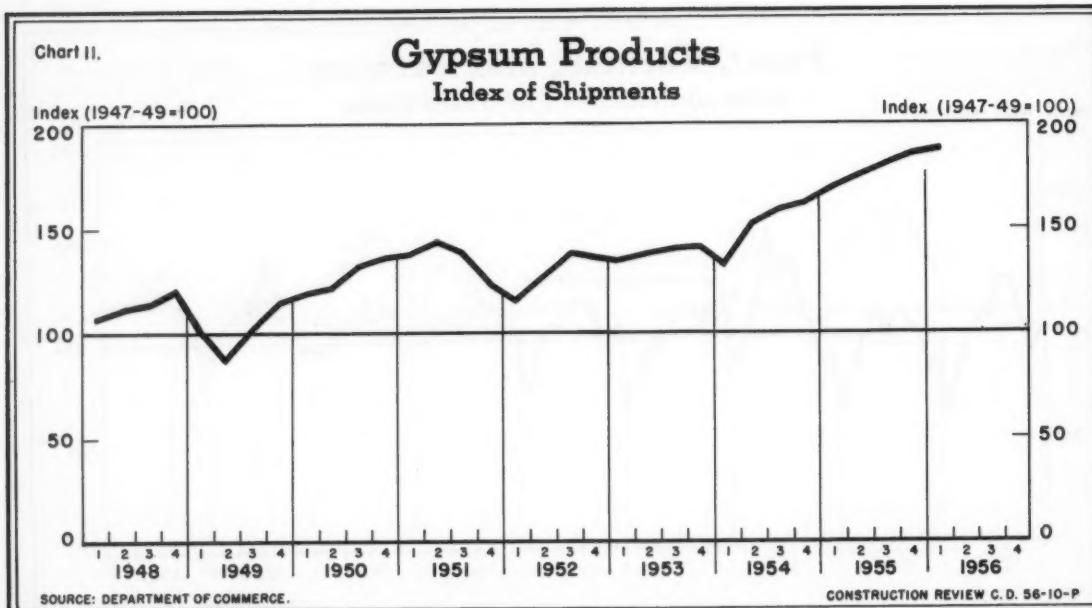
Table 29.—Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (Thousands of units)					Production for trade sales (Thousands of gallons)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	
1947-49 average.....	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1953.....	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	288,094
1954.....	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	282,979
1955.....	(1)	2,253	6,786	12,733	7,259	304,476
12 months ending:						
January 1956.....	(1)	2,223	6,704	12,589	7,174	307,884
February 1956.....	(1)	2,228	6,700	12,424	7,115	311,851
March 1956.....	(1)	2,174	6,668	12,014	6,922	311,275
April 1956.....	(1)	2,155	6,640	11,765	6,807	310,447
1955: April.....	301	187	646	987	591	27,025
May.....	254	182	554	1,050	606	28,130
June.....	216	182	579	1,104	720	30,844
July.....	184	133	490	817	537	24,845
August.....	229	203	613	1,163	704	27,423
September.....	239	202	621	1,137	713	26,255
October.....	(1)	206	528	1,174	681	23,797
November.....	(1)	193	517	1,145	591	23,529
December.....	(1)	149	454	897	414	22,282
1956: January.....	(1)	166	480	873	442	24,954
February.....	(1)	189	561	896	463	25,423
March.....	(1)	182	625	771	460	26,768
April.....	(1)	168	618	738	476	26,197
Percent change						
April, 1955-56.....	—	-10	-4	-25	-19	-3
First 4 mos., 1955-56.....	—	-12	-6	-23	-20	+6

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

¹Not available.

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SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Table 30.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Pro- duc- tion	Ship- ments	Stocks ¹	Shipments (Thousands of squares)				Shipments (Million square feet)	
	(Thousands of barrels)			Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Gypsum board ¹	Gypsum lath ¹
	Portland cement								
1947-49 average	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1953	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954	271,277	274,096	16,731	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
1955	296,829	296,275	17,536	62,930	1,293	2,193	34,609	4,911	2,926
12 months ending:									
January 1956	298,046	296,255	--	62,928	1,291	2,194	34,316	5,069	2,962
February 1956	300,013	298,317	--	64,288	1,324	2,202	34,389		
March 1956	301,059	297,847	--	64,912	1,319	2,224	33,925		
April 1956	302,375	299,813	--	62,764	1,285	2,203	32,690		
1955: April	24,818	25,295	26,106	6,099	98	172	2,977	1,200	724
May	27,031	29,527	23,672	5,972	91	227	2,568		
June	26,762	31,606	18,855	6,950	109	233	3,647		
July	27,332	29,467	16,727	5,225	91	200	2,312		
August	27,861	31,883	12,731	7,183	124	253	3,238		
September	26,958	29,867	9,779	6,242	139	255	2,496		
October	27,924	28,950	8,753	5,948	150	229	2,624		
November	24,894	21,985	11,663	4,617	128	169	3,483		
December	23,075	17,203	17,536	2,707	74	93	2,704		
1956: January	21,440	13,500	25,456	3,188	83	94	1,798		
February	19,578	16,093	28,939	4,624	112	116	2,784		
March	23,386	22,471	29,854	6,157	120	183	3,294		
April	26,134	27,261	28,675	3,951	64	151	1,742		
Percent change									
April, 1955-56	+ 5	+ 8	+10	-35	-35	-12	-41	--	--
First 4 mos., 1955-56	+ 7	+ 5	--	- 1	- 2	+ 2	-17	--	--

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census. *As of end of period.

¹Data reported on quarterly basis.

Table 31.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

(Thousands of barrels)

State	1956			Calendar year			12 months ending		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1953	1954	1955	Jan. 1956	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1956
Alabama	236	282	504	4,260	3,943	3,949	3,913	3,944	4,068
Arizona	192	188	228	2,433	2,215	2,337	2,360	2,339	2,300
Arkansas	66	80	180	1,762	1,894	2,519	2,362	2,247	2,098
California	2,193	2,704	3,229	27,737	28,528	31,553	31,889	32,354	32,671
Colorado	193	150	488	2,941	3,285	3,486	3,515	3,553	3,780
Connecticut	128	191	218	3,194	3,258	3,380	3,378	3,439	3,388
Delaware	45	59	68	902	910	1,097	1,108	1,131	1,124
District of Columbia	58	96	89	1,249	1,324	1,395	1,365	1,396	1,369
Florida	696	718	413	7,487	8,354	8,997	8,913	8,864	8,420
Georgia	349	385	814	4,644	4,441	5,198	5,227	5,291	5,636
Idaho	37	28	38	986	1,215	923	940	946	913
Illinois	537	673	1,187	13,439	14,973	14,670	14,716	14,873	15,108
Indiana	279	319	634	6,568	6,724	8,073	8,133	8,213	8,319
Iowa	82	127	338	4,941	5,863	5,883	5,877	5,931	5,923
Kansas	241	342	607	5,801	6,576	7,248	7,242	7,370	7,413
Kentucky	98	139	263	3,354	3,026	3,636	3,617	3,630	3,665
Louisiana	686	592	622	5,728	6,292	7,347	7,585	7,764	7,767
Maine	20	25	24	894	857	961	958	963	893
Maryland	236	327	398	4,676	4,447	4,882	4,890	5,016	5,041
Massachusetts	197	281	279	4,351	4,180	5,239	5,236	5,330	5,214
Michigan	505	571	749	12,716	13,076	13,991	14,015	14,131	14,160
Minnesota	107	236	364	4,968	5,500	5,838	5,804	5,904	5,862
Mississippi	98	120	179	1,696	1,732	1,972	1,971	1,978	1,971
Missouri	212	336	649	6,796	7,556	7,824	7,747	7,777	7,789
Montana	25	26	54	949	1,019	951	947	951	974
Nebraska	83	106	200	3,384	3,724	3,485	3,483	3,507	3,490
Nevada	47	42	58	618	842	737	743	731	724
New Hampshire	16	23	26	549	827	1,147	1,139	1,141	1,120
New Jersey	363	510	581	8,381	9,164	9,337	9,313	9,419	9,245
New Mexico	134	119	169	1,860	2,111	1,996	1,987	1,954	1,943
New York	631	812	1,009	19,134	20,290	19,399	19,436	19,561	19,215
North Carolina	219	282	380	3,715	4,009	4,414	4,396	4,403	4,397
North Dakota	17	42	74	1,148	1,161	1,150	1,157	1,182	1,188
Ohio	545	688	1,004	14,286	16,003	17,320	17,349	17,541	17,546
Oklahoma	211	301	457	4,158	4,364	4,785	4,734	4,723	4,725
Oregon	99	95	172	2,445	2,081	2,398	2,372	2,329	2,319
Pennsylvania	479	631	795	15,234	15,108	16,077	15,969	16,044	15,727
Rhode Island	20	40	34	857	685	822	818	836	799
South Carolina	146	166	221	2,217	1,993	2,461	2,475	2,497	2,529
South Dakota	20	34	55	1,246	1,116	1,221	1,219	1,232	1,210
Tennessee	330	254	412	4,856	4,683	5,088	5,178	5,187	5,219
Texas	1,192	1,493	2,054	16,158	19,081	20,781	20,482	20,473	20,500
Utah	84	51	146	1,343	1,508	1,835	1,878	1,894	1,929
Vermont	6	6	10	300	242	294	297	299	293
Virginia	248	326	436	4,701	4,474	4,801	4,801	4,851	4,884
Washington	180	183	365	5,413	5,884	5,656	5,518	5,356	5,286
West Virginia	51	87	118	1,921	2,379	2,053	2,044	2,070	2,054
Wisconsin	205	255	350	6,127	5,840	5,977	6,000	6,080	6,106
Wyoming	28	22	42	538	585	578	587	594	607

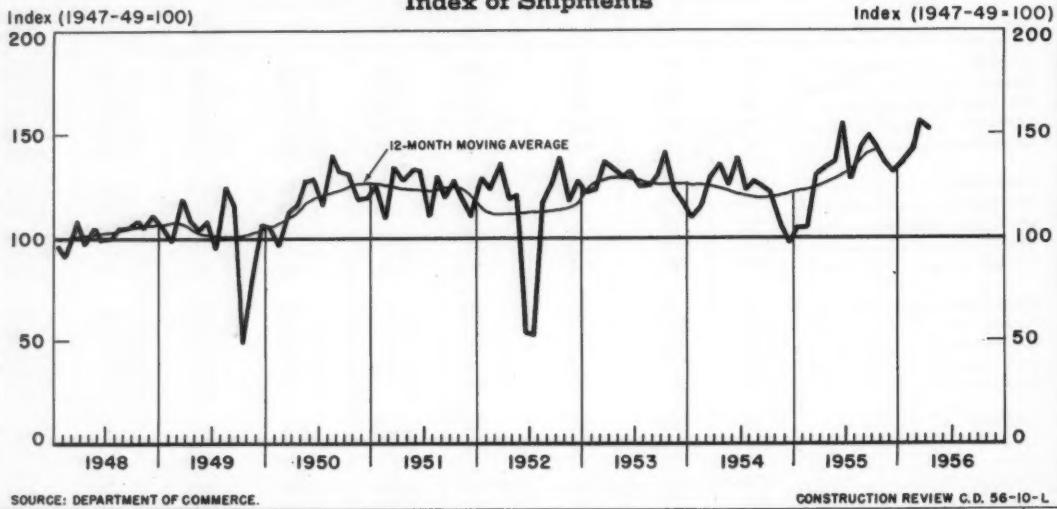
Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

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Chart 12.

Iron and Steel Products

Index of Shipments



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

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Table 32.—Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments							Rigid steel conduit	Shipments	Bookings	Backlog ¹	
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforcing bars	Galvanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe					
Pres- sure	Soil											
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1953	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	227	3,136	2,510	743
1955	3,083	2,163	2,865	651	391	1,233	1,682	869	280	2,981	3,693	1,029
12 months ending:												
January 1956	3,238	2,229	2,923	652	400	1,267	1,712	867	283	3,006	3,857	--
February 1956	3,391	2,275	2,997	650	405	1,278	1,750	864	290	3,078	3,954	--
March 1956	3,436	2,331	3,049	645	415	1,287	1,752	855	295	3,157	4,035	--
April 1956	3,487	2,375	3,077	633	421	1,298	1,758	849	307	3,205	4,144	--
1955: April	253	184	239	62	27	118	146	76	19	242	270	881
May	265	215	236	63	40	121	169	75	21	223	303	938
June	348	209	247	74	39	127	147	84	23	282	318	991
July	296	177	205	49	32	104	129	67	35	219	369	1,009
August	315	197	242	56	32	88	156	85	21	268	312	1,060
September	295	186	269	58	33	95	165	82	25	289	339	1,049
October	265	202	260	53	41	86	161	76	26	284	309	1,068
November	260	194	256	40	34	74	149	67	24	259	345	1,088
December	278	194	262	35	36	98	134	46	24	248	368	1,029
1956: January	274	182	269	50	30	131	131	59	22	251	405	1,176
February	288	174	273	49	32	114	133	64	27	285	331	1,199
March	299	217	291	56	39	131	132	74	28	307	366	1,187
April	304	228	267	50	33	129	152	70	31	290	379	1,107
Percent change												
April, 1955-56	+20	+24	+12	-19	+22	+ 9	+ 4	- 8	+63	+20	+40	+26
First 4 mos., 1955-56	+53	+36	+24	- 9	+29	+15	+16	- 7	+33	+25	+44	+26

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. ¹ Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months.

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Table 33.—Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (Million brick)		Structural clay tile (Thousands tons)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (Thousands tons)		Hollow facing tile (Million brick equivalent)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (Thousands square feet)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,513
1955	7,148	7,010	839	835	1,925	1,880	493	482	187,991	187,828
12 months ending:										
January 1956	7,244	7,033	842	825	1,948	1,900	494	487	191,545	190,542
February 1956	7,334	7,083	840	816	1,971	1,946	499	490	194,215	193,495
March 1956	7,382	7,056	836	802	1,981	1,956	503	491	197,050	194,326
April 1956	7,440	7,076	837	791	1,955	1,937	515	498	199,871	195,795
1955: April	569	605	65	70	143	147	37	38	14,550	14,820
May	614	652	68	72	157	178	42	42	15,077	15,491
June	654	684	77	77	179	197	43	45	15,936	16,936
July	623	627	73	70	152	171	41	40	14,414	15,036
August	677	680	73	81	173	193	46	46	16,504	16,969
September	676	678	69	74	183	188	41	40	16,967	17,215
October	657	638	72	74	172	172	38	37	17,467	16,917
November	633	581	70	64	174	157	38	37	17,668	16,543
December	567	480	69	60	163	118	43	40	16,986	16,308
1956: January	565	435	69	54	155	121	43	42	17,527	15,972
February	536	455	63	51	157	155	43	39	15,781	15,481
March	611	541	68	55	173	159	48	45	18,173	16,638
April	627	625	66	59	117	128	49	45	17,371	16,289
	Percent change									
April, 1955-56	+10	+3	+2	-16	-18	-13	+32	+18	+19	+10
First 4 mos., 1955-56	+14	+3	-1	-17	+5	+11	+14	+11	+21	+16

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 34.—Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region ¹

Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	April 1956		First 4 months 1956		April 1956		First 4 months	
	Quantity	Percent change from April 1955	Quantity	Percent change, 1955-56	Quantity	Percent change from April 1955	Quantity	Percent change, 1955-56
Brick, common and face (thousands)								
U. S. TOTAL	627,494	+10	2,339,975	+14	624,747	+3	2,056,250	+3
New England	11,225	+19	40,814	+22	11,617	+25	36,638	+24
Middle Atlantic	104,549	+19	358,015	+17	97,512	+3	290,139	+1
East North Central	136,015	+1	525,301	+12	152,385	+8	477,893	+9
West North Central	34,917	+18	117,984	+11	31,701	+5	94,973	+3
South Atlantic	154,631	+9	586,055	+13	154,693	-1	521,400	(2)
East South Central	58,588	+13	232,331	+19	54,905	-1	204,138	+6
West South Central	78,582	+15	306,562	+18	68,363	+2	237,100	-4
Mountain	23,553	+14	93,222	+27	23,631	+14	85,476	+20
Pacific	25,434	+3	79,691	-5	29,940	-2	108,493	+1
Structural clay tile (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	65,901	+1	266,751	-1	58,666	-16	218,872	-17
Middle Atlantic	6,135	+7	26,973	+5	5,696	-27	18,349	-30
East North Central	4,595	-47	23,309	-44	5,451	-44	20,790	-50
West North Central	11,039	+14	39,677	+14	7,563	-30	26,098	-16
South Atlantic	14,717	+16	43,709	-12	12,450	-13	50,469	-8
East South Central	3,884	-24	16,133	-38	4,029	-32	15,588	-42
West South Central	23,091	+5	108,794	+29	20,590	+5	78,998	+6
Mountain & Pacific	2,440	+70	8,156	+17	2,887	+51	8,380	+20
Vitrified clay sewer pipe (tons)								
U. S. TOTAL	117,225	-18	602,914	+5	127,755	-13	563,233	+11
Middle Atlantic	9,025	-44	57,830	-4	11,585	-32	45,281	-6
East North Central	29,088	-39	233,957	+7	35,225	-30	219,930	-16
West North Central	15,681	-9	65,443	-2	17,551	-17	55,509	-4
South Atlantic	15,329	+13	52,024	+16	14,711	+7	58,656	+33
E. & W. South Central	22,689	-2	94,590	+17	23,345	+21	87,562	+22
Mountain	3,595	+31	15,426	+9	4,355	+37	14,074	+15
Pacific	21,818	-3	83,644	-5	20,983	-6	82,221	+2

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

¹ Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. ²Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

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Table 35.--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousands of square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners ¹ (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments	Stocks*	Shipments
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1953	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
1955	2,598	108	28,512	4,834	1,348	191	558	70	537
12 months ending:									
January 1956	2,622	--	28,855	--	1,350	--	552	--	530
February 1956	2,653	--	29,121	--	1,349	--	543	--	520
March 1956	2,659	--	28,504	--	1,347	--	536	--	508
April 1956	2,657	--	28,369	--	1,338	--	527	--	500
1955: April	232	94	2,035	6,991	92	189	40	82	39
May	217	123	1,732	7,898	100	200	39	83	40
June	215	111	2,208	7,903	117	213	37	85	41
July	207	91	1,865	7,520	108	194	38	87	44
August	260	69	3,615	6,378	164	187	57	85	60
September	224	93	3,326	5,845	164	187	65	71	68
October	219	91	3,115	5,234	150	172	72	61	62
November	185	102	2,779	4,666	121	177	54	61	39
December	175	108	1,773	4,834	80	191	38	70	27
1956: January	224	109	2,018	4,866	87	212	33	86	32
February	246	104	2,236	5,013	79	226	29	87	29
March	255	96	1,802	5,814	85	255	34	92	27
April	230	102	1,900	6,082	83	266	31	95	31
Percent change									
April, 1955-56	- 1	- 9	- 7	-13	-10	+41	-23	+16	-21
First 4 mos., 1955-56	+ 7	--	- 2	--	- 3	--	-19	--	-23

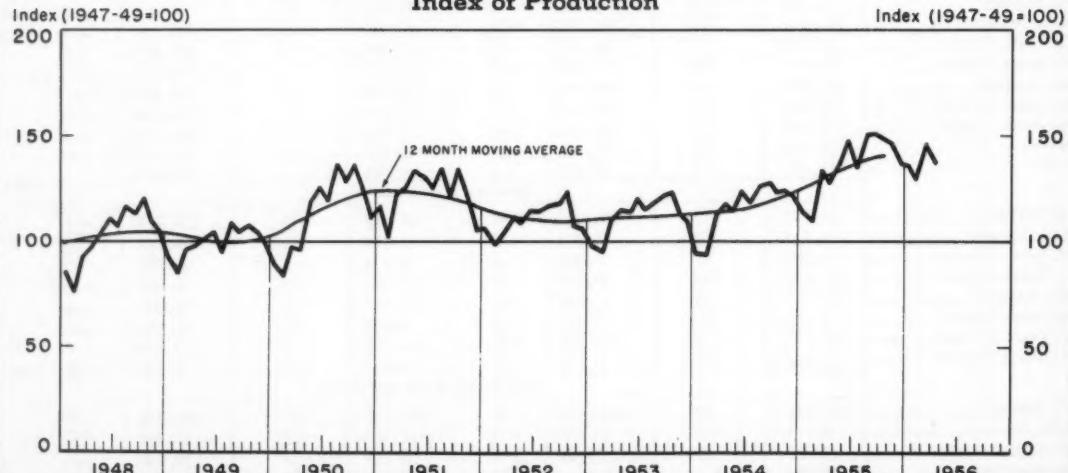
Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. *As of end of period.

¹Sold separately.

Chart 13.

Clay Construction Products

Index of Production



Part VII--Employment

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NOTE: The national contract construction employment statistics shown in table 36 include revisions from 1954 resulting from adjustments to first-quarter 1955 benchmarks. The adjustment of employment levels to a new benchmark has caused some revisions in the indexes of weekly man-hours in table 37, and in the hours and earnings data in table 40--which is expanded in this issue to show additional historic (unrevised) annual and monthly data.

In table 37, the indexes of contract construction employment, seasonally adjusted, include revisions from 1953--reflecting recent revisions by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the factors used for seasonal adjustment of the nonfarm employment estimates.

Table 36-A provides data, for the first time in Construction Review, on the seasonally adjusted number of employees in contract construction.

The series Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, previously published on a quarterly basis in the January, April, July, and October issues, will appear on a semi-annual basis beginning with the September issue, when data will be given as of the close of June 1956.

Table 36.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All con- tractors	Building contractors						Nonbuilding contractors				
		All building con- tractors	General con- tractors	Special trades contractors					All non- building	Highway and street		
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electri- cal work	Other trades				
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (in thousands)												
Year:	1948	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
	1949	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
	1950	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
	1951	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
	1952	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
	1953	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
	1954	2,593.0	2,090.0	885.7	1,204.0	295.7	143.8	164.4	600.1	503.0	217.4	285.6
	1955	2,780.0	2,279.0	937.7	1,341.6	318.3	165.6	169.1	688.6	501.0	222.9	278.2
1954:	Jan.	2,280.0	1,876.0	782.2	1,094.2	281.4	124.1	161.9	526.8	404.0	144.4	259.9
	Feb.	2,286.0	1,877.0	783.2	1,093.7	275.9	122.4	157.7	537.7	409.0	149.7	259.0
	Mar.	2,340.0	1,910.0	801.6	1,108.2	276.4	127.1	154.8	549.9	430.0	165.8	264.0
	Apr.	2,483.0	2,003.0	852.4	1,151.0	281.6	134.9	157.6	576.9	480.0	198.0	282.1
	May	2,590.0	2,061.0	884.8	1,176.4	284.5	140.1	159.5	592.3	529.0	230.8	297.9
	June	2,703.0	2,146.0	925.7	1,219.8	292.6	152.2	164.4	610.6	557.0	255.2	301.6
	July	2,772.0	2,202.0	951.2	1,250.8	302.6	157.3	169.2	621.7	570.0	264.1	305.9
	Aug.	2,828.0	2,248.0	964.2	1,283.4	311.4	163.7	172.3	636.0	580.0	268.4	311.8
	Sept.	2,806.0	2,241.0	952.8	1,287.8	311.3	161.1	173.6	641.8	565.0	262.1	302.6
	Oct.	2,765.0	2,217.0	940.1	1,277.1	312.6	152.9	168.2	643.4	548.0	252.6	295.8
	Nov.	2,710.0	2,192.0	921.5	1,270.4	311.0	149.2	167.5	642.7	518.0	231.2	287.1
	Dec.	2,550.0	2,104.0	868.9	1,234.9	307.2	140.7	165.7	621.3	446.0	186.0	259.6
1955:	Jan.	2,362.0	1,970.0	799.3	1,170.9	295.1	126.8	162.4	586.6	392.0	152.6	239.1
	Feb.	2,317.0	1,935.0	779.2	1,155.4	290.2	127.5	160.2	577.5	382.0	147.4	235.0
	Mar.	2,433.0	2,029.0	831.5	1,197.3	293.4	135.9	161.1	606.9	404.0	161.9	242.0
	Apr.	2,614.0	2,157.0	884.5	1,272.4	303.0	153.3	161.6	654.5	457.0	196.4	260.6
	May	2,790.0	2,274.0	931.9	1,342.1	312.4	168.1	164.5	697.1	516.0	234.7	280.9
	June	2,928.0	2,368.0	980.1	1,388.2	319.7	181.6	168.8	718.1	560.0	262.3	297.4
	July	3,032.0	2,454.0	1,027.5	1,426.3	328.4	190.4	171.6	735.9	578.0	272.3	305.8
	Aug.	3,088.0	2,502.0	1,047.4	1,454.7	338.9	192.9	172.9	750.0	586.0	277.9	308.1
	Sept.	3,094.0	2,501.0	1,031.7	1,469.2	344.1	188.8	176.1	760.2	593.0	279.5	313.1
	Oct.	3,031.0	2,458.0	1,009.3	1,448.3	340.7	183.8	177.8	746.0	573.0	266.2	306.9
	Nov.	2,921.0	2,398.0	988.4	1,409.8	331.1	176.9	177.0	724.8	523.0	235.7	287.5
	Dec.	2,756.0	2,306.0	941.6	1,364.1	322.0	161.1	175.0	706.0	450.0	187.3	262.4
1956:	Jan.	2,588.0	2,185.0	880.0	1,304.8	311.9	142.5	172.2	678.2	403.0	156.5	246.3
	Feb.	2,588.0	2,189.0	878.4	1,310.7	310.2	144.3	170.6	685.6	399.0	153.2	245.6
	Mar.	2,669.0	2,244.0	914.2	1,330.1	313.5	147.3	170.7	698.6	425.0	168.0	256.8
	Apr.	2,847.0	2,368.0	979.2	1,389.1	318.3	164.5	172.4	733.9	479.0	202.9	276.2
	May	3,030.0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
	Percent change											
Mar.-Apr. 1956..	+6.7	+5.5	+7.1	+4.4	+1.5	+11.7	+1.0	+5.1	+12.7	+20.8	+7.6	
Apr., 1955-56...	+8.9	+9.8	+10.7	+9.2	+5.0	+7.3	+6.7	+12.1	+4.8	+3.3	+6.0	
May, 1955-56...	+8.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Beginning with this issue, the "All contractors" employment estimate is for a later month of reference than previously; detail by type of contractor is not available at the same time as the total estimate, and will appear in the next issue.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 36-A.--Contract Construction: Employment, Seasonally Adjusted

Year	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (in thousands)											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1948	2,120	2,015	2,065	2,105	2,136	2,184	2,199	2,212	2,220	2,229	2,249	2,251
1949	2,222	2,171	2,146	2,128	2,124	2,130	2,157	2,176	2,197	2,192	2,190	2,141
1950	2,119	2,101	2,105	2,173	2,236	2,337	2,405	2,451	2,473	2,502	2,517	2,471
1951	2,526	2,521	2,569	2,593	2,596	2,613	2,633	2,641	2,630	2,653	2,606	2,620
1952	2,599	2,624	2,588	2,586	2,597	2,645	2,658	2,672	2,682	2,648	2,650	2,632
1953	2,647	2,669	2,653	2,638	2,613	2,598	2,588	2,596	2,612	2,632	2,623	2,626
1954	2,533	2,583	2,600	2,614	2,603	2,599	2,591	2,594	2,586	2,584	2,618	2,615
1955	2,624	2,618	2,703	2,752	2,804	2,815	2,834	2,833	2,852	2,833	2,822	2,827
1956	2,876	2,924	2,966	3,003	3,055							

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 37.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

(1947-49 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
	INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT (seasonally adjusted) ¹												
1948	100.7	95.7	98.1	100.0	101.5	103.8	104.5	105.1	105.5	105.9	106.8	106.9	103.0
1949	105.6	103.1	101.9	101.1	100.9	101.2	102.5	103.4	104.4	104.1	104.0	101.7	102.9
1950	100.7	99.8	100.0	103.2	106.2	111.0	114.3	116.4	117.5	118.9	119.6	117.4	110.8
1951	120.0	119.8	122.0	123.2	123.3	124.1	125.1	125.5	124.9	126.0	123.8	124.5	123.7
1952	123.5	124.7	122.9	123.4	125.7	126.3	126.9	127.4	125.8	125.9	125.0	125.1	
1953	125.7	126.8	126.0	125.3	124.1	123.4	122.9	123.3	124.1	125.0	124.6	124.8	124.6
1954	120.3	122.7	123.5	124.2	123.7	123.5	123.1	123.2	122.9	122.8	124.4	124.2	123.2
1955	124.7	124.4	128.4	130.7	133.2	133.7	134.6	134.6	135.5	134.6	134.1	134.3	132.1
1956	136.6	138.9	140.9	142.7	145.1								
INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS													
1948	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954	95.5	102.8	106.4	113.5	120.3	128.0	131.4	134.0	128.6	128.6	123.3	114.4	118.9
1955	101.4	98.6	108.4	115.5	129.3	136.5	144.1	145.1	148.5	140.8	128.2	124.3	126.7
1956	112.0	113.0	114.0	127.9	(2)								

Source: Department of Labor. ¹Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the Federal Reserve Board.

UNION WAGES AND HOURS: BUILDING TRADES, JULY 1, 1955

This publication gives results of the 49th annual survey of union wages and hours in the building trades. Issued by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, the bulletin contains an analysis of findings, and detailed tabulations. Indexes of weekly hours and hourly wage rates are shown for the years 1907-55 by skill and for 30 separate trades. Other tabulations cover 1954-55 increases in wages and hours by region and city; the amount of increase (cents per hour and percentagewise) and the proportion of workers affected, by trade; wages and hours by trade in 52 separate areas, and wage rates by city size. Information on the prevalence of negotiated health, insurance, and pension plans in this industry, first collected in 1954, was continued in the 1955 survey.

Some of the findings show that whereas the index of union wage scales continued upward between 1954 and 1955, the annual rate of increase was the smallest since the close of World War II. Percentage increases from 1954 to 1955 generally were larger for the various helper and labor classifications than for journeymen.

Union Wages and Hours: Building Trades, July 1, 1955 (BLS Bulletin 1192) is for sale at 30 cents a copy. Orders may be sent, accompanied by check or money order, to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., or to any of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Regional Offices (see inside front cover of Construction Review for addresses).

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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Table 38.—Contract Construction: Employment, by State

State	Number of employees (in thousands)										Percent change, Apr. 1955-56	
	1955				1956				1953	1954	1955	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	
Alabama	34.4	34.4	33.9	33.2	32.0	32.5	32.8	34.3	30.3	30.2	32.1	+ 7
Arizona	19.8	20.3	19.9	19.1	18.2	17.7	17.7	18.1	18.1	18.6	18.9	- 4
Arkansas	16.7	16.5	16.1	15.3	14.5	12.4	12.6	12.7	19.3	14.2	15.8	-20
California	290.2	281.8	267.5	258.0	257.7	273.0	281.5	288.2	255.1	237.0	262.5	+10
Colorado	30.4	29.7	28.8	28.0	26.9	25.5	26.2	28.9	27.3	24.7	28.6	+ 1
Connecticut ¹	49.5	49.2	47.5	46.6	41.7	40.3	40.8	42.5	36.3	40.0	41.3	+ 3
Delaware ²	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	19.2	18.9	19.1	18.7	18.1	18.2	18.4	18.8	17.4	16.8	17.2	+ 9
Florida	94.8	93.1	93.4	92.1	88.3	87.3	86.7	86.3	73.1	79.1	87.6	- 1
Georgia	52.5	52.0	51.1	49.5	49.3	50.6	51.4	53.7	47.8	46.9	49.4	+ 9
Idaho	10.1	9.0	8.6	7.9	7.2	6.7	7.5	8.5	8.4	7.1	7.4	+15
Illinois	183.0	182.3	177.0	167.4	161.5	157.3	165.1	177.8	160.3	154.7	161.9	+10
Indiana	77.0	76.6	72.1	64.8	62.6	61.2	62.5	69.5	58.3	53.9	61.2	+14
Iowa	36.2	33.9	31.9	27.0	25.9	25.1	26.4	31.9	29.1	29.7	29.1	+10
Kansas	42.6	42.3	41.1	36.3	34.7	32.2	37.4	40.0	33.9	35.8	37.3	+ 7
Kentucky ²	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Louisiana	55.0	55.6	55.5	56.1	55.9	54.8	56.1	57.6	56.0	53.3	45.1	+28
Maine	14.8	14.7	13.2	10.8	9.6	9.0	8.8	9.7	9.7	11.6	11.4	-15
Maryland	69.8	71.1	70.5	67.7	64.0	63.5	65.0	69.7	56.3	56.5	62.2	+12
Massachusetts	91.4	89.0	88.5	80.4	71.6	71.0	73.2	80.6	66.4	69.0	73.9	+ 9
Michigan	126.5	125.3	120.9	111.9	105.3	103.9	102.0	107.0	96.4	109.2	107.7	- 1
Minnesota	67.1	66.5	59.5	51.1	46.3	43.6	42.5	47.0	42.0	43.3	45.8	+ 3
Mississippi	18.2	17.8	17.6	16.9	14.8	12.8	13.6	14.4	18.5	15.5	16.2	-11
Missouri	81.9	78.6	75.3	68.9	63.9	61.6	67.7	69.2	57.1	63.4	73.7	- 6
Montana	14.8	13.4	10.6	9.0	8.2	7.5	8.0	10.1	8.5	8.3	9.4	+ 7
Nebraska	28.5	27.5	26.4	21.8	21.2	20.0	21.5	24.1	17.1	20.4	21.2	+14
Nevada	10.3	9.6	9.1	8.4	7.9	7.3	7.7	7.9	8.4	8.4	9.1	-13
New Hampshire	10.1	10.1	9.9	8.7	7.8	7.0	7.1	8.2	6.0	7.6	8.9	- 8
New Jersey	114.1	117.1	115.2	107.4	94.7	97.0	100.1	109.7	89.5	97.4	97.4	+13
New Mexico	15.8	15.0	15.0	14.3	13.5	13.6	13.8	14.1	13.9	13.2	14.7	- 4
New York ³	255.7	253.6	248.9	235.1	213.3	209.6	211.5	230.6	211.7	225.3	221.7	+ 4
North Carolina	52.9	51.9	51.5	49.2	47.2	46.8	47.7	48.7	50.5	47.7	49.9	- 2
North Dakota	10.7	9.5	8.1	5.9	5.1	4.9	4.9	7.1	6.8	8.5	6.4	+11
Ohio	179.0	177.4	169.5	156.5	148.0	144.0	147.5	156.7	134.8	151.6	148.7	+ 5
Oklahoma	33.5	31.7	30.5	29.7	29.1	28.7	30.3	30.9	33.9	30.4	32.5	- 5
Oregon	28.8	27.2	23.1	21.8	19.7	19.4	20.7	23.0	22.1	21.0	20.5	+12
Pennsylvania	209.2	204.5	194.6	177.6	157.2	155.8	163.4	178.2	175.4	164.3	175.1	+ 2
Rhode Island	19.0	17.7	17.0	16.2	14.3	14.8	15.2	17.3	14.8	14.7	17.0	+ 2
South Carolina	30.9	29.2	29.0	27.3	26.1	26.9	26.4	27.1	52.3	38.0	29.2	- 7
South Dakota	9.1	9.2	7.4	5.8	4.9	4.6	4.6	6.8	8.3	8.4	8.2	-17
Tennessee	48.9	47.7	45.9	43.5	41.5	40.7	41.8	(2)	50.3	50.9	46.0	--
Texas	162.1	158.9	155.9	155.1	154.3	153.4	157.8	157.8	172.9	140.1	159.5	- 1
Utah	17.0	16.2	16.2	15.9	13.2	11.1	12.5	14.5	11.5	9.9	13.1	+11
Vermont	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.6	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.7	3.6	+ 6
Virginia	65.6	65.6	64.5	61.7	60.2	61.1	63.5	66.2	59.5	54.2	59.7	+11
Washington	52.3	49.2	44.2	42.6	39.3	38.4	40.9	42.6	45.4	48.8	45.7	- 7
West Virginia	22.2	21.3	20.3	19.2	17.7	18.5	18.0	19.5	17.4	19.1	17.2	+13
Wisconsin	68.9	68.1	64.4	59.6	56.5	55.3	54.4	57.3	49.1	45.0	52.1	+10
Wyoming ³	9.1	8.5	7.0	5.8	5.0	4.7	5.1	6.7	5.7	5.4	5.3	+26

Source: Department of Labor. ¹ Includes a small number of employees in mining. ² Not available. ³ Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 39.—Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)										Percent change, Apr. 1955-56
	1955				1956				1953	1954	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N. Y.	7.5	7.6	7.3	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.9	(1)	6.6	6.9	6.0
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.6	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.6	4.6	4.9
Atlanta, Ga.	20.3	20.4	20.3	19.5	19.1	19.6	19.6	20.2	14.7	15.3	18.0
Baltimore, Md.	45.2	46.2	45.8	44.9	42.5	42.0	43.2	46.1	34.6	37.3	39.9
Baron Rouge, La.	5.7	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.3	(1)	5.4	5.2
Binghamton, N. Y.	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	(1)	2.6	2.4	2.7
Birmingham, Ala.	11.9	11.8	11.5	11.1	10.5	10.3	10.4	11.1	10.2	9.6	10.1
Boise, Idaho	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.0	1.5	1.4
Boston, Mass.	53.5	51.5	50.4	46.8	42.1	41.8	43.1	47.0	40.0	37.7	41.5
Bridgeport, Conn. ²	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.5	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.3	4.8	4.9	5.3
Buffalo, N. Y.	23.9	22.1	21.9	20.1	18.3	16.9	16.8	(1)	17.8	17.7	19.1
Casper, Wyo.	1.1	1.0	.9	.7	.7	.8	.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	.9
Charleston, S. C.	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	4.0	3.6	2.7
Charleston, W. Va.	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.4	5.5	6.2	3.4
Charlotte, N. C.	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.2	5.4	6.4	5.3
Chattanooga, Tenn.	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.9	5.0	3.9	4.5
Chicago, Ill.	125.8	125.2	122.6	117.1	114.0	112.6	117.0	125.8	106.6	103.2	111.1
Denver, Colo.	19.8	19.3	18.7	18.0	16.9	16.3	16.9	19.1	17.7	15.9	18.3
Des Moines, Iowa ³	5.4	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.2	4.1	4.4	5.2	4.1	5.0	4.8
Detroit, Mich.	69.1	68.1	67.4	63.0	60.2	59.9	57.4	56.9	55.0	62.9	59.7
Duluth, Minn.	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.0	2.2	1.8	1.7
Evansville, Ind.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.2	3.1	3.0	(1)	(1)	2.5	3.1	3.5
Fargo, N. D.	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.4
Fort Wayne, Ind.	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.7	2.4	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.0	2.9
Great Falls, Mont.	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.4
Harrisburg, Pa.	8.2	8.0	8.2	7.4	6.5	6.1	6.4	7.7	5.7	6.0	7.7
Hartford, Conn. ²	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.2	8.4	8.0	8.3	9.0	7.5	8.9	8.8
Indianapolis, Ind.	11.2	11.0	10.5	9.9	9.6	9.5	9.7	10.6	10.7	9.1	8.8
Jackson, Miss.	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.5	4.1	4.3	(1)	(1)	4.3
Jacksonville, Fla.	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.9	8.3	10.2	9.3
Kansas City, Mo. ³	21.1	20.9	20.7	19.6	19.5	19.0	19.3	19.7	21.5	22.0	21.2
Knoxville, Tenn.	8.1	7.2	6.7	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.2	10.5	12.6	11.5
Lewiston, Maine	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark.	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.5	5.6	4.7	5.0	5.4	4.7	4.4	5.6
Los Angeles, Calif.	133.4	124.6	115.3	112.4	122.7	128.5	133.2	132.7	116.1	114.0	125.4
Louisville, Ky.	15.2	14.6	13.7	13.0	11.2	11.0	11.6	12.3	(1)	13.9	12.9
Manchester, N. H.	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.7	2.0
Memphis, Tenn.	12.8	12.7	12.4	12.1	11.5	10.7	11.1	11.2	9.9	9.9	10.0
Miami, Fla.	26.6	26.3	25.9	24.2	22.3	21.6	21.1	21.0	16.2	20.2	23.9
Milwaukee, Wis.	24.3	24.1	23.3	22.4	21.5	21.3	20.9	21.8	(1)	17.0	19.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	31.8	31.7	28.7	26.0	24.6	24.1	24.7	27.9	24.8	22.7	25.0
Mobile, Ala.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.8	4.3	4.8
Nashville, Tenn.	8.1	8.0	7.6	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.8	8.3	9.0	6.8	6.6
New Bedford, Mass.	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.6
New Britain, Conn. ²	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.2	+8
New Haven, Conn. ²	6.5	6.4	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.1	5.1	5.5	5.9
New Orleans, La.	17.7	16.8	16.2	15.7	15.9	15.2	15.1	15.3	20.1	21.6	14.9
New York-Northeastern N. Jersey: ²	232.1	229.0	226.3	220.5	199.3	199.9	206.1	216.5	(1)	207.6	207.0
Newark-Jersey City, N. J. ³	33.6	35.1	34.7	32.6	29.1	28.3	28.7	30.9	28.5	30.3	28.7
Paterson, N. J. ³	23.4	23.0	22.6	20.9	18.8	19.4	19.6	21.4	(1)	20.3	20.7
Perth Amboy, N. J. ³	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.1	6.0	6.4	6.6	7.4	(1)	5.9	5.2
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N. Y. ³	32.7	31.1	29.7	28.6	24.4	25.3	27.3	(1)	26.7	28.8	30.7
New York, N. Y. ³	115.1	112.4	112.2	112.7	106.0	106.7	109.9	113.4	99.2	105.9	102.9
Westchester County, N. Y. ³	17.6	17.7	17.8	16.2	13.2	12.3	12.5	(1)	(1)	14.9	17.0
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	11.5	11.2	11.0	10.3	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.8	10.9	10.6	10.9
Oklahoma City, Okla.	10.7	10.4	10.2	10.0	9.8	9.7	10.4	10.7	8.9	8.8	10.5
Omaha, Nebr.	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.1	7.0	6.5	6.7	7.3	6.1	8.6	6.7
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.4	10.9	10.6	10.1	10.1	9.8	9.6	9.7	9.2	9.6	10.4
Pittsburgh, Pa.	48.1	47.1	45.2	41.3	39.2	39.5	41.4	45.4	36.2	32.4	40.8
Portland, Maine	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.1
Portland, Oreg.	15.9	15.2	13.4	13.0	11.8	11.1	12.0	(1)	12.0	11.4	12.2
Providence, R. I.	16.8	15.7	15.1	14.4	12.7	13.1	13.5	(1)	13.1	13.0	15.0
Racine, Wis.	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.1	(1)	1.6	1.9
Reno, Nev.	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.5	2.0	2.1
Richmond, Va. ³	11.5	11.7	11.4	11.1	10.5	11.0	11.3	12.0	10.5	9.4	10.6
Rochester, N. Y.	10.8	10.6	10.1	9.3	8.5	8.1	8.3	(1)	7.8	8.2	9.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 39.—Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas—Continued

Area	Number of employees (in thousands)										Percent change, Apr. 1955-56	
	1955				1956				1953	1954	1955	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	Apr.	
St. Louis, Mo.	39.1	38.1	36.3	33.8	32.1	30.5	32.3	33.6	(1)	38.8	37.4	-10
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	10.7	10.5	8.9	8.6	8.0	7.4	8.0	8.5	6.5	5.8	8.2	+4
San Diego, Calif.	12.9	12.6	12.3	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.9	13.3	15.1	11.8	12.8	+4
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. ..	64.4	65.1	63.7	60.1	54.2	58.4	59.1	61.1	58.0	51.7	55.8	+9
San Jose, Calif.	11.0	10.7	10.5	9.7	9.0	9.7	10.1	10.8	8.8	8.5	10.0	+8
Savannah, Ga.	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8	3.2	4.5	3.1	3.6	-11
Seattle, Wash.	15.9	15.5	14.3	13.5	12.6	12.7	13.1	14.2	12.3	12.0	13.9	+2
South Bend, Ind.	4.4	4.4	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.3	-3
Spokane, Wash.	5.7	5.2	4.3	3.5	2.9	2.7	3.0	3.8	3.8	4.5	4.3	-12
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	6.5	6.3	6.5	5.7	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.6	4.1	4.4	4.8	+17
Stamford, Conn. ²	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.0	3.3	3.8	-3
Syracuse, N. Y.	7.0	6.7	6.5	5.9	5.6	5.3	5.5	(1)	6.2	6.4	5.6	--
Tacoma, Wash.	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.4	3.4	3.6	+14
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.9	14.1	13.6	14.1	14.0	11.2	11.9	12.8	+9
Topeka, Kans.	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.8	2.9	2.2	3.1	+23
Trenton, N. J.	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.5	(1)	4.1	3.4	+3
Tucson, Ariz.	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.1	4.8	3.7	4.1	+24
Tulsa, Okla.	8.7	8.3	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.8	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.0	9.1	-8
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.6	2.8	(1)	3.0	2.8	2.5	--
Washington, D. C.	47.3	47.3	47.3	45.2	43.0	43.1	43.8	45.8	36.1	36.5	42.1	+9
Waterbury, Conn.	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.9	0
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va. ..	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.4	3.6	3.5	3.7	+19
Wichita, Kans.	8.6	8.2	7.9	6.9	6.5	6.1	6.6	6.9	6.2	6.4	8.0	-14
Worcester, Mass.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.7	3.4	2.9	0

Source: Department of Labor.

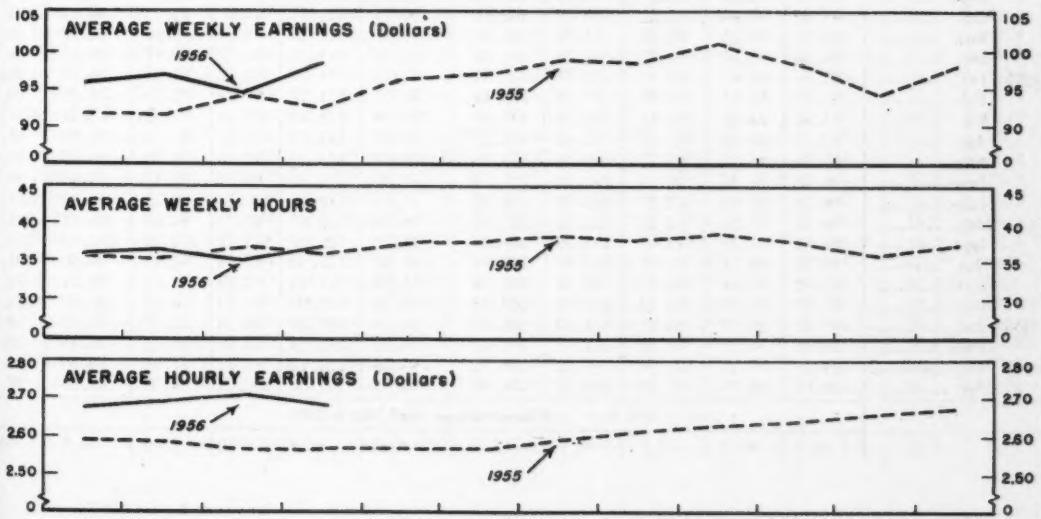
¹Not available.

strictly comparable with previously published data.

²Includes a small number of employees in mining.³Revised series; not

Chart 14

Hours and Earnings of Workers In Contract Construction



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Table 40.—Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction						Nonbuilding construction				
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors				All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building		
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work					
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS												
Year:	1948.....	\$68.25	\$68.85	\$64.64	\$73.87	\$76.83	\$69.77	\$83.01	\$69.65	\$66.61	\$62.41	\$68.67
	1949.....	70.81	70.95	67.16	75.70	78.60	70.75	86.57	71.39	70.44	65.65	73.66
	1950.....	73.73	73.73	68.56	77.77	81.72	71.26	89.16	74.71	73.46	69.17	76.31
	1951.....	81.49	81.47	75.03	87.32	91.34	78.76	102.26	83.62	80.78	74.62	85.26
	1952.....	87.85	88.01	82.78	91.99	94.92	82.72	110.30	88.43	86.72	80.26	91.35
	1953.....	91.61	91.76	87.75	94.79	98.30	87.10	111.61	91.04	90.27	85.28	93.85
	1954.....	93.98	94.12	89.41	97.58	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
	1955.....	95.94	96.03	90.22	100.83	106.68	94.38	116.82	96.21	94.87	91.05	98.50
1953:	Jan.	88.16	88.93	86.26	91.33	96.25	81.41	111.50	85.16	83.93	74.31	89.32
	Feb.	88.64	89.78	86.71	92.20	95.00	82.96	109.97	87.25	85.19	77.22	90.02
	Mar.	88.67	89.79	85.79	92.82	96.39	84.18	110.21	88.10	84.26	75.42	89.55
	Apr.	89.15	90.04	86.71	92.57	96.39	84.28	109.09	88.10	85.02	77.62	90.02
	May	90.58	91.01	87.40	94.21	97.41	85.61	109.98	90.36	87.60	81.61	91.71
	June	92.25	92.23	88.55	94.98	97.67	87.75	110.21	91.98	91.54	88.10	94.19
	July	91.58	91.64	87.14	95.20	97.01	88.35	109.48	92.46	92.57	88.37	95.65
	Aug.	94.18	93.62	89.68	96.72	98.68	89.06	112.29	93.84	96.05	92.42	98.95
	Sept.	90.77	90.97	86.03	95.04	96.42	88.32	108.46	92.20	90.97	87.97	93.27
	Oct.	96.11	95.76	90.58	99.75	101.78	91.85	117.49	95.79	97.48	94.61	99.80
	Nov.	93.00	93.59	88.45	97.62	101.08	88.41	114.17	93.70	91.01	86.67	94.18
	Dec.	92.37	93.29	87.85	96.92	102.94	88.67	116.11	91.00	89.93	81.87	95.50
1954:	Jan.	87.12	87.46	82.13	91.46	99.96	82.36	111.07	83.21	83.88	71.69	91.02
	Feb.	92.85	93.24	88.94	96.30	101.30	87.28	112.42	90.90	91.54	81.37	97.20
	Mar.	93.24	94.28	90.41	97.11	101.68	88.58	112.42	91.87	90.12	80.98	95.92
	Apr.	92.87	93.55	89.55	96.65	101.41	89.27	110.98	93.10	89.60	82.53	94.71
	May	94.50	94.43	89.67	98.36	101.95	89.78	113.59	94.68	93.79	88.97	97.93
	June	95.38	95.09	90.04	99.06	103.41	92.04	113.39	95.89	96.37	91.81	100.28
	July	95.38	94.83	89.55	99.43	103.14	92.39	112.40	96.15	97.29	95.26	99.39
	Aug.	96.14	95.94	91.51	99.53	103.52	92.31	113.88	96.10	96.79	93.09	100.77
	Sept.	93.84	94.06	89.00	98.10	102.92	92.57	110.08	94.08	92.57	88.75	96.33
	Oct.	95.49	95.89	91.62	99.19	103.63	92.75	115.05	94.87	93.73	86.62	100.53
	Nov.	93.95	94.15	89.61	97.02	100.10	90.37	112.18	93.90	93.90	88.94	98.55
	Dec.	94.28	95.04	90.83	98.28	107.20	91.12	113.30	91.77	89.47	80.51	96.08
1955:	Jan.	91.69	92.66	88.55	95.74	105.64	86.72	113.00	88.78	85.01	76.70	90.16
	Feb.	91.17	91.34	85.59	95.55	103.40	90.05	111.25	89.24	88.16	78.79	94.11
	Mar.	93.81	94.32	89.14	98.19	103.40	92.38	113.10	93.37	91.48	83.21	97.22
	Apr.	92.26	93.10	87.40	97.46	103.22	90.25	112.81	92.92	89.39	81.92	95.37
	May	95.86	96.52	90.27	100.74	105.26	94.87	114.17	97.55	94.30	90.03	97.86
	June	96.63	96.89	90.14	101.65	105.64	95.39	115.35	98.36	96.17	93.93	98.55
	July	98.68	98.95	92.00	103.60	108.39	97.02	118.31	100.64	99.36	97.22	101.18
	Aug.	98.14	97.99	92.23	102.03	107.34	96.72	118.60	97.73	99.01	96.75	101.15
	Sept.	100.61	100.23	93.61	105.28	109.80	99.25	120.90	101.28	102.29	102.13	102.75
	Oct.	98.10	98.01	91.55	102.76	108.96	97.30	121.30	97.54	99.36	96.90	101.40
	Nov.	93.81	94.04	88.24	98.28	105.28	91.58	117.43	92.89	92.64	89.21	95.76
	Dec.	97.99	98.19	92.11	102.93	109.42	96.26	122.00	97.23	94.95	87.47	101.12
1956:	Jan.	95.41	96.17	88.75	101.10	109.16	94.24	120.26	94.58	93.17	85.19	98.43
	Feb.	96.84	97.27	90.30	102.03	107.82	94.92	122.36	96.88	94.43	86.14	99.85
	Mar.	94.50	95.15	87.98	99.81	108.58	95.26	120.12	93.01	91.88	84.90	96.38
	Apr.	98.09	98.91	91.85	104.03	108.49	97.51	120.04	100.24	94.38	88.03	99.33
Percent change, April 1955 to 1956												
	+6.3	+6.2	+5.1	+6.7	+5.1	+8.0	+6.4	+7.9	+5.6	+7.5	+4.2	

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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Table 40.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers--Continued

Period	All construction	Building construction						Nonbuilding construction			
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors				All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building	
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work				
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS											
Year: 1948.....	38.1	37.3	36.6	38.0	39.2	36.3	39.8	36.9	40.6	41.6	40.0
1949.....	37.8	36.7	36.2	37.2	38.6	35.7	39.2	36.1	40.9	41.5	40.5
1950.....	37.2	36.3	35.8	36.7	38.4	34.5	38.4	35.8	40.9	41.1	40.7
1951.....	37.9	37.2	36.6	37.8	39.2	35.8	40.1	37.0	40.8	41.0	40.6
1952.....	38.7	38.1	38.5	37.7	38.9	35.2	40.7	37.0	41.1	41.8	40.6
1953.....	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954.....	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.2	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1955.....	36.9	36.1	35.8	36.4	38.1	34.7	39.2	35.5	40.2	41.2	39.4
1953: Jan.....	37.2	36.9	38.0	36.1	38.5	33.5	40.4	34.2	38.5	38.5	38.5
Feb.....	37.4	37.1	38.2	36.3	38.0	34.0	39.7	34.9	38.9	39.2	38.8
Mar.....	37.1	36.8	37.3	36.4	38.1	34.5	39.5	35.1	38.3	37.9	38.6
Apr.....	37.3	36.9	37.7	36.3	38.1	34.4	39.1	35.1	39.0	39.4	38.8
May.....	37.9	37.3	38.0	36.8	38.2	34.8	39.0	36.0	40.0	40.4	39.7
June.....	38.6	37.8	38.5	37.1	38.3	35.1	39.5	36.5	41.8	43.4	40.6
July.....	38.0	37.1	37.4	36.9	37.6	35.2	39.1	36.4	41.7	42.9	40.7
Aug.....	38.6	37.6	38.0	37.2	38.1	35.2	39.4	36.8	42.5	43.8	41.4
Sept.....	36.9	36.1	36.3	36.0	36.8	34.5	37.4	35.6	39.9	41.3	38.7
Oct.....	38.6	37.7	37.9	37.5	38.7	35.6	40.1	36.7	42.2	43.8	40.9
Nov.....	37.2	36.7	36.7	36.7	38.0	34.4	39.1	35.9	39.4	40.5	38.6
Dec.....	36.8	36.3	36.3	36.3	38.7	34.5	39.9	34.6	39.1	38.8	39.3
1954: Jan.....	34.3	33.9	33.8	34.0	37.3	31.8	38.3	31.4	36.0	34.3	37.0
Feb.....	36.7	36.0	36.3	35.8	37.8	33.7	38.9	34.3	39.8	39.5	40.0
Mar.....	37.0	36.4	36.9	36.1	37.8	34.2	38.9	34.8	39.7	39.5	39.8
Apr.....	37.0	36.4	36.7	36.2	37.7	34.6	38.4	35.4	39.3	39.3	39.3
May.....	37.5	36.6	36.6	36.7	37.9	34.8	38.9	36.0	40.6	41.0	40.3
June.....	38.0	37.0	36.9	37.1	38.3	35.4	39.1	36.6	41.9	42.7	41.1
July.....	38.0	36.9	36.7	37.1	38.2	35.4	38.1	36.7	42.3	43.9	40.9
Aug.....	38.0	36.9	36.9	37.0	38.2	35.1	39.0	36.4	41.9	42.7	41.3
Sept.....	36.8	35.9	35.6	36.2	37.7	34.8	37.7	35.5	39.9	40.9	39.0
Oct.....	37.3	36.6	36.5	36.6	38.1	35.0	39.0	35.8	40.4	40.1	40.7
Nov.....	36.7	35.8	35.7	35.8	36.8	34.1	37.9	35.3	40.3	40.8	39.9
Dec.....	36.4	36.0	35.9	36.0	38.7	34.0	38.8	34.5	38.4	37.8	38.9
1955: Jan.....	35.4	35.1	35.0	35.2	38.0	32.6	38.7	33.5	36.8	36.7	36.8
Feb.....	35.2	34.6	34.1	35.0	37.6	33.6	38.1	33.3	38.0	37.7	38.1
Mar.....	36.5	36.0	35.8	36.1	37.6	34.6	38.6	35.1	39.6	40.2	39.2
Apr.....	35.9	35.4	35.1	35.7	37.4	33.8	38.5	34.8	38.2	38.1	38.3
May.....	37.3	36.7	36.4	36.9	38.0	35.4	38.7	36.4	40.3	41.3	39.3
June.....	37.6	36.7	36.2	37.1	38.0	35.2	39.1	36.7	41.1	42.5	39.9
July.....	38.1	37.2	36.8	37.4	38.3	35.8	39.7	37.0	42.1	43.4	40.8
Aug.....	37.6	36.7	36.6	36.7	38.2	35.3	39.8	35.8	41.6	43.0	40.3
Sept.....	38.4	37.4	37.0	37.6	38.8	35.7	39.9	37.1	42.8	44.6	41.1
Oct.....	37.3	36.3	35.9	36.7	38.5	35.0	39.9	35.6	41.4	42.5	40.4
Nov.....	35.4	34.7	34.2	35.1	37.2	33.3	38.5	33.9	38.6	39.3	38.0
Dec.....	36.7	36.1	35.7	36.5	38.8	34.5	40.0	35.1	39.4	39.4	39.5
1956: Jan.....	35.6	35.1	34.4	35.6	38.3	33.9	39.3	33.9	38.5	38.9	38.3
Feb.....	36.0	35.5	35.0	35.8	37.7	33.9	39.6	34.6	38.7	38.8	38.7
Mar.....	35.0	34.6	34.1	34.9	37.7	33.9	39.0	33.1	37.5	37.4	37.5
Apr.....	36.6	36.1	35.6	36.5	37.8	34.7	39.1	35.8	39.3	38.8	
Percent change, April 1955 to 1956											
	+1.9	+2.0	+1.4	+2.2	+1.1	+2.7	+1.6	+2.9	+2.1	+3.1	+1.3

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Table 40.—Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers—Continued

Period	All construction	Building construction						Nonbuilding construction			
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors				All non-building	Highway and street	Other non-building	
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decora-tion	Electri-cal work				
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1948.....	\$1.79	\$1.85	\$1.77	\$1.95	\$1.96	\$1.93	\$2.08	\$1.89	\$1.64	\$1.50	\$1.72
1949.....	1.87	1.94	1.86	2.03	2.04	1.98	2.21	1.98	1.72	1.58	1.82
1950.....	1.98	2.03	1.92	2.12	2.13	2.01	2.32	2.09	1.80	1.68	1.88
1951.....	2.15	2.19	2.05	2.31	2.33	2.20	2.55	2.26	1.98	1.82	2.10
1952.....	2.27	2.31	2.15	2.44	2.44	2.35	2.71	2.39	2.11	1.92	2.25
1953.....	2.43	2.48	2.34	2.59	2.58	2.51	2.84	2.55	2.24	2.07	2.37
1954.....	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.69	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1955.....	2.60	2.66	2.52	2.77	2.80	2.72	2.98	2.71	2.36	2.21	2.50
1953: Jan.....	2.37	2.41	2.27	2.53	2.50	2.43	2.76	2.49	2.18	1.93	2.32
Feb.....	2.37	2.42	2.27	2.54	2.50	2.44	2.77	2.50	2.19	1.97	2.32
Mar.....	2.39	2.44	2.30	2.55	2.53	2.44	2.79	2.51	2.20	1.99	2.32
Apr.....	2.39	2.44	2.30	2.55	2.53	2.45	2.79	2.51	2.18	1.97	2.32
May.....	2.39	2.44	2.30	2.56	2.55	2.46	2.82	2.51	2.19	2.02	2.31
June.....	2.39	2.44	2.30	2.56	2.55	2.50	2.79	2.52	2.19	2.03	2.32
July.....	2.41	2.47	2.33	2.58	2.58	2.51	2.80	2.54	2.22	2.06	2.35
Aug.....	2.44	2.49	2.36	2.60	2.59	2.53	2.85	2.55	2.26	2.11	2.39
Sept.....	2.46	2.52	2.37	2.64	2.62	2.56	2.90	2.59	2.28	2.13	2.41
Oct.....	2.49	2.54	2.39	2.66	2.63	2.58	2.93	2.61	2.31	2.16	2.44
Nov.....	2.50	2.55	2.41	2.66	2.66	2.57	2.92	2.61	2.31	2.14	2.44
Dec.....	2.51	2.57	2.42	2.67	2.66	2.57	2.91	2.63	2.30	2.11	2.43
1954: Jan.....	2.54	2.58	2.43	2.69	2.68	2.59	2.90	2.65	2.33	2.09	2.46
Feb.....	2.53	2.59	2.45	2.69	2.68	2.59	2.89	2.65	2.30	2.06	2.43
Mar.....	2.52	2.59	2.45	2.69	2.69	2.59	2.89	2.64	2.27	2.05	2.41
Apr.....	2.51	2.57	2.44	2.67	2.69	2.58	2.89	2.63	2.28	2.10	2.41
May.....	2.52	2.58	2.45	2.68	2.69	2.58	2.92	2.63	2.31	2.17	2.43
June.....	2.51	2.57	2.44	2.67	2.70	2.60	2.90	2.62	2.30	2.15	2.44
July.....	2.51	2.57	2.44	2.68	2.70	2.61	2.95	2.62	2.30	2.17	2.43
Aug.....	2.53	2.60	2.48	2.69	2.71	2.63	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.18	2.44
Sept.....	2.55	2.62	2.50	2.71	2.73	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.32	2.17	2.47
Oct.....	2.56	2.62	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.95	2.65	2.32	2.16	2.47
Nov.....	2.56	2.63	2.51	2.71	2.72	2.65	2.96	2.66	2.33	2.18	2.47
Dec.....	2.59	2.64	2.53	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.92	2.66	2.33	2.13	2.47
1955: Jan.....	2.59	2.64	2.53	2.72	2.78	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.31	2.09	2.45
Feb.....	2.59	2.64	2.51	2.73	2.75	2.68	2.92	2.68	2.32	2.09	2.47
Mar.....	2.57	2.62	2.49	2.72	2.75	2.67	2.93	2.66	2.31	2.07	2.48
Apr.....	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.73	2.76	2.67	2.93	2.67	2.34	2.15	2.49
May.....	2.57	2.63	2.48	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.18	2.49
June.....	2.57	2.64	2.49	2.74	2.78	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.21	2.47
July.....	2.59	2.66	2.50	2.77	2.83	2.71	2.98	2.72	2.36	2.24	2.48
Aug.....	2.61	2.67	2.52	2.78	2.81	2.74	2.98	2.73	2.38	2.25	2.51
Sept.....	2.62	2.68	2.53	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.03	2.73	2.39	2.29	2.50
Oct.....	2.63	2.70	2.55	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.04	2.74	2.40	2.28	2.51
Nov.....	2.65	2.71	2.58	2.80	2.83	2.75	3.05	2.74	2.40	2.27	2.52
Dec.....	2.67	2.72	2.58	2.82	2.82	2.79	3.05	2.77	2.41	2.22	2.56
1956: Jan.....	2.68	2.74	2.58	2.84	2.85	2.78	3.06	2.79	2.42	2.19	2.57
Feb.....	2.69	2.74	2.58	2.85	2.86	2.80	3.09	2.80	2.44	2.22	2.58
Mar.....	2.70	2.75	2.58	2.86	2.88	2.81	3.08	2.81	2.45	2.27	2.57
Apr.....	2.68	2.74	2.58	2.85	2.87	2.81	3.07	2.80	2.42	2.24	2.56
Percent change, April 1955 to 1956											
	+4.3	+4.2	+3.6	+4.4	+4.0	+5.2	+4.8	+4.9	+3.4	+4.2	+2.8

Source: Department of Labor.

Construction Legislation

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Federal-Aid Highway and Highway Revenue Acts of 1956. (Public Law 627, approved June 29, 1956.)

P.L. 627 provides for a 13-year, multibillion-dollar roadbuilding program for the United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Alaska, the Federal share of which is to be financed by new and increased taxes levied on highway users over a 16-year period. Among the major provisions of this law, are the following:

Title I—Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956

*National System
of Interstate and
Defense Highways*

A total of \$24,825,000,000 was authorized to be appropriated for construction and improvement of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, to be completed as nearly as practicable over a 13-year period beginning July 1, 1956, and ending June 30, 1969.

The annual amounts authorized are as follows:

	FISCAL YEAR	AUTHORIZATION	FISCAL YEAR	AUTHORIZATION
2.32	1957.....	\$1,000,000,000*	1964.....	\$2,200,000,000
2.32	1958.....	1,700,000,000	1965.....	2,200,000,000
2.32	1959.....	2,000,000,000	1966.....	2,200,000,000
2.32	1960.....	2,200,000,000	1967.....	2,200,000,000
2.31	1961.....	2,200,000,000	1968.....	1,500,000,000
2.32	1962.....	2,200,000,000	1969.....	1,025,000,000
2.39	1963.....	2,200,000,000		

* In addition to \$175,000,000 already authorized for fiscal 1957 in the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954.

Funds authorized for the first 3 years are to be apportioned to the States as provided under existing law--based two-thirds on population, one-sixth on area, and one-sixth on mileage of rural delivery routes and star routes. For the remaining 10 years of the program, apportionment is to be based on the ratio which the estimated cost of completing the Interstate System in each State bears to the estimated total cost of completing the System in all the States. Estimated costs of completion are to be made on the basis of the maximum limitation of 40,000 miles on the Interstate System, although P.L. 627 increases the mileage limitation to 41,000 miles.

The Federal share of projects on the Interstate System is to be 90 percent of the total cost of the projects (formerly 60 percent). However, in States having certain public lands and Indian lands, the Federal share is increased in a manner similar to that provided in existing law for the so-called public-land States, but not to exceed 95 percent of the total cost of the project. The funds will be available for expenditure for 2 years after the close of the fiscal year for which they were authorized. Any amount apportioned to the States and unexpended at the end of the period shall lapse, and be immediately available for reapportionment among the other States.

In order to speed up construction, especially during the early years of the program in States which may need more funds than would be apportioned to them under the population-area-mileage formula, the law provides that a State may proceed at once on projects (or parts of projects) on the Interstate System, without the use of Federal funds, and be reimbursed from its apportionments in later years for the Federal Government's 90 percent share of the cost. Plans and specifications for these projects must be approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and the projects must be constructed in accordance with all procedures and all requirements applicable to other Interstate System projects.

*Federal-aid primary,
secondary, and
urban systems*

The following amounts were authorized for Federal-aid primary and secondary systems and extension of those systems within urban areas: \$125,000,000 (in addition to \$700,000,000 already authorized under the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954) for fiscal year 1957; \$850,000,000

for fiscal 1958; and \$875,000,000 for fiscal 1959. These funds are to be matched by State funds on a 50-50 basis.

Allocation of funds to the primary, secondary, and urban systems will be made according to the historic ratio of 45, 30, and 25 percent, respectively. Up to 20 percent of the amount allotted to any State may be transferred from any one of the 3 categories of apportionment to any other, provided the

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total of funds transferred does not increase the original apportionment for the category to which transferred by more than 20 percent.

Apportionment among the States of the sums authorized will be in accordance with the formulas contained in section 4 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944. Sums apportioned to the States are to be available for expenditure for 2 fiscal years after the close of the fiscal year for which authorized; funds unspent at the end of that period shall lapse.

Federally built roads and trails

Authorization of appropriations for federally built roads on or to federally owned or controlled lands are as follows: (1) For forest highways, \$30,000,000, and for forest development roads and trails, \$27,000,000

for each of the fiscal years 1958 and 1959. These funds are to be available also for adjacent vehicular parking areas and sanitary, water, and fire control facilities. (2) For roads and trails in national parks, \$16,000,000; parkways, \$16,000,000; and Indian roads, \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1958 and 1959. (3) For public lands highways, \$2,000,000 (in addition to \$1,000,000 already authorized in the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954), and \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1958 and 1959.

Acquisition of rights-of-way

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to acquire in the name of the United States, any lands, including control of access from adjoining lands, needed for construction purposes in connection with projects on

the Interstate System when requested to do so by a State, provided the State is unable to acquire the lands (in some States existing law does not permit the States to satisfactorily control access to their highways), or cannot obtain them with sufficient promptness. The State must have agreed to reimburse the Secretary of Commerce for 10 percent of the costs incurred in acquiring the lands. The lands will be reconveyed to the State highway department of the State in which located, except the outside 5 feet of the rights-of-way in States which do not provide control of access. When the State makes satisfactory provision for control of access to the highway, the Secretary will then convey to it the outside 5 feet.

Availability of funds to acquire rights-of-way

The Secretary of Commerce is authorized: (1) Upon request of a State highway department, to make any of the apportioned Federal-aid highway funds, including interstate funds, available for acquisition of rights-of-way in anticipation of construction. (This is to enable the

States to acquire land at more reasonable costs than if acquisition of rights-of-way were delayed until just before start of construction.) Federal funds will be used for rights-of-way in accordance with the regular Federal pro rata share applicable for the class of funds from which Federal reimbursement is made. The State must have agreed to construct roads on the rights-of-way within a 5-year period. (2) To pay in advance to any State the Federal share of the cost of a project on any of the Federal-aid highway systems to enable the State to make prompt payments for acquisition of rights-of-way and for construction as it progresses. The sums advanced shall be deposited in a special revolving trust fund to be disbursed upon vouchers approved by the State highway department. Any part of the advance which is determined by the Secretary of Commerce to be no longer required by the State shall be repaid upon his demand. The repayments shall be returned to the credit of the appropriation from which the sums were advanced. (This provision differs from previous law in that it specifically allows Federal advances to be used for payments for acquisition of rights-of-way, establishes a revolving fund, and provides that excess amounts shall be repaid upon demand instead of annually.)

Relocation of utility facilities

The use of Federal funds is authorized to reimburse a State for the pro rata share (50 percent on Federal-aid primary, secondary, and urban systems, and 90 percent on the Interstate System) of the cost of relocating utilities, provided the payment to the utility does not violate State law or a legal contract between the utility and the State.

Emergency fund

An amendment to section 7 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1952 increases the previous \$10,000,000 annual emergency fund authorization to \$30,000,000 for the repair and reconstruction of highways and bridges on the Federal-aid systems, damaged as a result of disaster.

*Prevailing
rate of wage*

P.L. 627 requires the payment, in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, on the highway projects on the Interstate System, of not less than the locally prevailing wage rates as determined by the Secretary of Labor. It also provides that, in carrying out these provisions, the Secretary of Labor shall consult with the highway department of the State in which a project is located, and after giving due regard to the information obtained, shall make a predetermination of minimum wage rates which shall be set out in each project advertisement for bids and in each bid proposal form and shall be made a part of the contract covering the project.

Title II—Highway Revenue Act of 1956

This title of the law provides for new or higher taxes from several different revenue sources during the period from July 1, 1956, through June 30, 1972, which, together with certain existing highway-user taxes, are to be placed in a special trust fund for financing the highway program. The new or increased revenue sources, estimated to bring in \$14.8 billion during the 16-year period, are as follows:

(1) An increase of 1 cent on the previous 2-cent-a-gallon tax on gasoline, and a similar increase in the tax on diesel fuel and special motor fuels used in vehicles registered, or required to be registered, for highway use. These increases were effective July 1, 1956.

(2) An increase of 3 cents a pound in the tax on tires (formerly 5 cents), and a new tax of 3 cents a pound on retread rubber, effective July 1, 1956.

(3) A 2-percent increase in the previous 8-percent manufacturer's excise tax on the sale of trucks, truck trailers, buses, etc. After July 1, 1972, the rate will be 5 percent of the sales price.

(4) A new annual use tax of \$1.50 per 1,000 pounds of taxable gross weight for trucks and buses weighing over 26,000 pounds, if registered for use on the highways.

(5) Floor stock taxes on inventories in the hands of dealers on July 1, 1956, with respect to the following items: trucks, buses, and truck trailers; tires of the type used on highway vehicles; tread rubber; and gasoline. Floor stock refunds will be made for inventories of these same items which are in the hands of dealers on July 1, 1972.

Housing for Essential Civilian Employees of the Armed Forces. (Public Law 574, approved June 13, 1956.)

This law adds a new section 809 to title VIII of the National Housing Act, authorizing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on 1- to 4-family dwelling units to be owned by private individuals who are essential civilian employees of the Armed Forces, or employees of contractors of the armed services, at research or development installations. Except for the downpayment required, mortgage terms for housing insured under section 809 are the same as those provided under section 203 of the National Housing Act, which authorizes the FHA's regular program of mortgage insurance for sales housing. For section 809 housing, the minimum downpayment required, exclusive of closing costs, is 5 percent of the first \$9,000 of the FHA's appraised value of the home, plus 25 percent of the amount above \$9,000. For new housing under section 203, the comparable ratios are 7 percent and 27 percent, respectively. (See *Construction Review*, August 1955, pp. 53-54, and the *Federal Register*, Vol. 21, No. 116, June 15, 1956, pp. 4230-4232.)

In order to qualify for insurance under this new section, an individual is required to hold a certificate issued by the Secretary of Defense, certifying that he (1) requires housing, (2) is, on the date of the certificate, a civilian employee of one of the military departments, or an employee of a contractor of the armed services, at a research or development installation, and (3) is considered by the military department to be an essential, nontemporary employee at such date.

The Secretary of Defense is also required to certify to the Commissioner of FHA that housing is necessary for these civilian employees, and that there is no present intention to substantially curtail the number of civilian personnel assigned, or to be assigned, to the military installations. This certification takes the place of the requirement for section 203 housing that the project be economically

sound or an acceptable risk. If, however, the Commissioner determines that mortgage insurance for any project under section 809 housing is not an acceptable risk, he can require the Secretary of Defense to guarantee the Armed Services Housing Mortgage Insurance Fund from loss with respect to the mortgages insured in this project.

Extension of Armed Forces Defense Plant and Mobilization Construction Authority. (Public Law 605, approved June 21, 1956.)

This law provides continuing statutory authority beyond the July 1, 1956 expiration date for the Secretaries of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force to construct, expand, and maintain both Government-owned and privately owned industrial plants necessary for defense production or mobilization reserve purposes. This authority is continued until July 1, 1957, unless terminated sooner by a concurrent resolution of the Congress or by the termination of the present national emergency declared by the President on December 16, 1950.

Appropriation Acts That Provide for Construction and Housing

Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Administration Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 554, approved June 4, 1956.)

Major items contained in this law which include construction, are as follows:

Rural Electrification Administration. \$214,000,000 for the rural electrification program, and \$100,000,000 for the rural telephone program.

Agricultural Conservation Program Service. \$227,500,000 for the soil-building and soil- and water-conserving program, under the Act of February 29, 1936, as amended.

Soil Conservation Service. \$67,000,000 for regular soil conservation operations, \$17,500,000 for the watershed protection program, and \$12,000,000 for the flood prevention program.

Farmers' Home Administration. \$24,000,000 for direct and insured farm ownership loans for the purchase, enlargement or development, including farm housing and other building construction, of family type farms, under title I and section 43 of title IV of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, as amended; and \$5,500,000 for direct and insured soil and water conservation loans under the Act of August 28, 1937, as amended.

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 573, approved June 13, 1956.)

This law provides funds for the following major items which include construction:

Department of the Interior. (1) *National Park Service*, \$29,800,000 for forest highway work authorized under section 6 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954; \$15,250,000 for construction and improvement of buildings, utilities, and other physical facilities, including land acquisition and water rights; and \$10,158,000 for operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of roads, trails, buildings, utilities, and other physical facilities; (2) *Bureau of Indian Affairs*, \$11,500,000 for construction and maintenance of Indian roads and public lands highways authorized under section 6 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954; \$5,240,000 for construction, major repair, and improvement of irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, and other facilities, including land acquisition and preparation for farming; and (3) *Office of Territories*, \$12,768,000 for construction in Alaska, distributed as follows: \$7,800,000 for roads, and \$4,968,000 for public works.

Smithsonian Institution. \$33,712,000 for construction of a Museum of History and Technology, as authorized by the Act of June 28, 1955 (see Construction Review, July 1955, p. 50).

Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. \$24,000,000 for construction of forest roads and trails.

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Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 604, approved June 20, 1956.)

The following major construction items appear in this law:

Department of Commerce. (1) *Bureau of Public Roads*, \$775,000,000 for federally aided highway systems (in payment of obligations authorized before enactment of P.L. 627, above), and \$23,000,000 for forest highways; and (2) *Civil Aeronautics Administration*, \$40,000,000 for further expansion of the Federal airways system, including additional VHF omni-ranges, radar installations, lighting and approach systems, airport-towers, traffic control centers, communications stations, and related facilities (first-year phase of a \$246,000,000 five-year plan), and \$30,000,000 to take care of airport-project contracts already authorized under the Federal Airport Act, as amended by the Act of August 3, 1955 (see Construction Review, August 1955, pp. 51-52).

Small Business Administration. \$50,000,000 for additional capital for the revolving fund used in making disaster loans and regular business loans authorized by the Small Business Act of 1935, as amended (see Construction Review, March 1956, p. 46).

Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 623, approved June 27, 1956.)

The following major items which relate to construction and housing appear in this law:

Housing and Home Finance Agency. \$93,000,000 for the payment of annual contributions to local public housing authorities for operating low-rent public housing projects; \$40,000,000 for payment of capital grants for slum clearance and urban renewal; \$7,500,000 for payment to the revolving fund for Federal advances to State and local agencies to assist in the preparation of a reserve of planned public works; and \$1,500,000 for urban planning grants.

General Services Administration. \$42,565,550 for repair, improvement, and equipment of federally owned buildings outside of the District of Columbia; \$5,300,000 for payment of obligations on construction work at the Hospital Center in the District of Columbia, previously authorized in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1949; and \$5,000,000 for site acquisition, preparation of drawings and specifications, and incidental items for 88 projects (estimated to cost \$376 million) under the Public Buildings Purchase Contract Act of 1954. The Administrator of General Services was authorized to enter into lease-purchase contracts during the fiscal year 1957 for construction of buildings on which the aggregate annual payment for amortization of principal and interest shall not exceed \$7,000,000, in addition to the unused portion of the \$5,000,000 limitation applicable prior to July 1, 1956, under the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1956.

Veterans Administration. \$51,635,000 for construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and modernization of veterans hospitals; and \$4,533,000 for major alterations, improvements, and repairs to regional offices, supply depots, and hospital and domiciliary facilities.

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. \$14,000,000 for construction and equipment of laboratories and research stations of the Committee.

Funds Appropriated to the President. \$6,000,000 for the disaster relief program administered for the President by the Civil Defense Administrator.

Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 624, approved June 27, 1956.)

Major construction items contained in this law are:

- (1) \$12,000,000 for continuing the extension and reconstruction of the central portion of the United States Capitol;
- (2) \$10,000,000 for continuing construction of an additional office building for the United States House of Representatives, and remodeling the present buildings; and
- (3) \$5,250,000 for continuing construction on the new office building for the United States Senate.

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Department of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 635, approved June 29, 1956.)

The major construction items contained in this law are all under Title II--Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and are as follows:

Public Health Service. (1) \$125,000,000--hospital construction grants, distributed as follows: \$104,000,000 for payments authorized under Part C of Title VI of the Public Health Service Act (the original Hill-Burton program), and \$21,000,000 under Part G (diagnostic and treatment centers, \$6,500,000; chronic disease hospitals, \$6,500,000; rehabilitation facilities, \$4,000,000; and nursing homes, \$4,000,000. (2) \$8,762,000--construction of Indian Health facilities. (3) \$6,821,000--construction and equipment of a maximum security building at Saint Elizabeths Hospital.

Gallaudet College. \$2,547,000--construction and equipment of classroom-laboratory building, speech and hearing clinic, boiler and laundry equipment, and roads, walks, and grading.

United States Soldiers' Home. \$2,200,000--plans and construction of buildings and facilities for a "service center."

District of Columbia Appropriation Act, 1957. (Public Law 637, approved June 27, 1956.)

This law provides \$34,317,700 (of which \$3,160,700 will not be available for expenditure until July 1, 1957) for new construction (including site acquisition and preparation of plans and specifications) and equipment of school buildings and a motor vehicle safety inspection station; permanent improvement of buildings and grounds of schools, firehouses, hospitals, and other public buildings; street improvement (paving, drainage, street lighting, etc.); bridge construction (including work on Potomac River bridge); extension of the District of Columbia water-distribution system and, construction, rehabilitation, and replacement of sewers and other sanitation and water-supply facilities; and continuing construction along the Washington Aqueduct.

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